PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 460 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2006–2007

COMPRISING PERIOD
8 May—24 May 2007

Com/Ref (01/08)

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Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 8 May 2007

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held on 8 May in Brussels. The items on the agenda are as follows:

Preliminary draft of the 2008 general budget

The Commission will give a presentation on its Preliminary Draft 2008 EC Budget, marking the formal beginning of a process that will see the 2008 Budget debated and amended by the Council and European Parliament during the course of the year until the Budget is finally adopted in December.

Financial Markets

Hedge Funds

Ministers will be invited to adopt conclusions on Hedge Funds, as part of a consideration of their role in financial markets. The UK shares the consensus view of the positive role that hedge funds play in fostering the efficiency of the financial system.

White Paper on Asset Management

Ministers will be invited to adopt conclusions on the Commission's White Paper on enhancing the Single Market Framework for Investment Funds. The UK supports efforts to create an efficient and competitive single market in investment funds which will deliver value for investors and help the EU in meeting the challenges of an ageing population.

Ageing and Financial Markets

Ministers will be invited to adopt conclusions on a Financial Services Committee Report on the implications of ageing populations for financial markets. The UK supports efforts to boost the efficiency of pan-European markets for long-term savings products and work to examine the policy issues related to ageing and financial markets.

Inter-institutional Monitoring Group (IIMG): Second Interim Report Monitoring the Lamfalussy Process

Ministers will hear reports updating them on the state of play of the Inter-institutional Monitoring Group's work from the IIMG and the Commission. The UK supports the work of the IIMG to improve practical arrangements for the supervision of the European Financial services industry.

Informal ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Informal Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) took place in Berlin on 20 and 21 April 2007. The Informal Council discussed various aspects of sustainable public finances, efforts to combat VAT fraud and issues relating to financial markets.

The main discussion focused on approaches to optimising public finances to enable member states to meet the challenges posed by globalisation and demographic change, including building Social Bridges and human capital to improve employability and strengthen social inclusion, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure, and securing stable public revenues. Ministers shared national experiences and ideas for addressing these issues.

The Informal Council also discussed measures for combating VAT fraud, the Spring Meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions, Hedge Funds and the current state of financial markets. Following up on the previous Informal Council meeting in Helsinki, the Informal Council was informed about ongoing work on precautionary arrangements to secure the stability of Financial Markets.

The UK was represented by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

Northern Ireland

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): Following the St Andrews Agreement in October 2006 and the historic agreement by the political parties on 26 March 2007 to the return of devolution, I am today setting out how the Government are meeting their commitment under the St Andrews Agreement to provide the incoming Northern Ireland Executive with a package to create long term economic and financial stability for Northern Ireland.

The return of devolution today provides a unique opportunity to create long-term peace and prosperity for all the people of Northern Ireland. The Government remain committed to ensuring the incoming Executive has the capacity to provide quality public services, to continue the process of necessary reform, to plan for the future, to make the long-term capital investments to underpin the economic transformation of Northern Ireland, as well as bringing long-term benefits for the island as a whole. In advance of restoration and to this end, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and I have had meetings with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister designate. I look forward to continued dialogue with the restored Executive.

In advance of the final outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review, I am today however confirming the following guaranteed package to boost investment, competitiveness and employment.

Investment

I am today confirming a funding package of at least £51.5 billion comprising:

£35 billion based on existing spending for 2007-08 together with uprating by at least inflation over the next three years;

an £18 billion long term investment strategy from 2005 to 2017;

retention of value for money savings to be made over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 expected to be at least £0.8 billion;

retention of asset sales to fund capital investment expected to be over £1 billion, with £500 million over the next four years;

additional spending over the next two years under the end-year flexibility scheme of £140 million resource DEL

(£75 million in 2007-08 and £65 million in 2008-09) and £180 million capital DEL (£100 million in 2007-08 and £80 million in 2008-09);

additional spending financed by EU receipts expected to be in excess of £0.5 billion;

the provision of £400 million, additional to the £35 billion above, including an upfront £100 million in 2007-08 from the Treasury's Reserve to enable an incoming administration to delay the introduction of water charges without affecting existing spending plans in Northern Ireland and introduce an innovation fund; and

confirmation of £200 million borrowing under the Reinvestment and Reform initiative from 2007-08. Borrowing under the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative will no longer be linked with the requirement to close the gap with GB council tax rates. This is in addition to the cap on rates and enhanced relief for pensioners already announced by the Secretary of State.

In addition there will be a major package of integrated investment in infrastructure, including for a substantial new roads programme. In addition to the £18 billion allocated to the revised Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland, the Irish Government have made £400 million available for the investment in infrastructure projects.

Within this package, I recognise the need to provide resource this financial year and therefore there will be £700 million available in 2007-08 above existing Departmental Expenditure Limit plans.

Improving competitiveness

Following representations from all the political parties on differential tax rates, I announced on 22 March a review led by Sir David Varney to report on how current and future tax policy, and including the tax changes announced in the Budget, can support sustainable growth of businesses and long-term investment in Northern Ireland. The review will consider this in the context of the tax environment across the EU, including the Republic of Ireland. Sir David will report in the autumn.

A new Northern Ireland corporate tax office is being established to promote the competitive tax position that Northern Ireland enjoys, working closely with Invest Northern Ireland to promote indigenous and inward investment.

Provision is being made available to facilitate the new Executive to create an innovation fund focusing particularly on levering in private sector investment and promoting collaborative research. Upfront funding from within £100 million in 2007-08 is being made available along with funding of £36 million from the Irish Government targeted specifically on collaborative research and development.

I also agreed on 22 March to further discussions between an incoming Executive and officials of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) with regard to excise duties and measures to tackle fraud in Northern Ireland.

To enhance Northern Ireland's competitive positioning in the global economy and, in particular, its ability to attract foreign direct investment, we will work with the Executive to organise a major conference in Northern Ireland for prospective investors in the autumn with a follow up meeting in America next spring.

Increasing employment opportunities

In 2006 the unemployment rate in Northern Ireland was 4.2 per cent. compared to 8.9 per cent. in 1997. To build further on this progress, I also announced a new local employment partnership that will help create 5,000 jobs for the unemployed in Northern Ireland. It will be established between five leading employers in the retail sector—Asda, B&Q, Marks and Spencer, Sainsburys and Tesco—along with the British Retail Consortium and the Employment Service in Northern Ireland to support long-term benefit claimants into work, building on the successful approaches these retailers have already established.

Work will also take place in discussion with the construction industry on the development of a similar partnership, and extending this to the hospitality and hotel sector.

Future partnership

Looking ahead and building on this unique package, the Government look forward to continuing engagement between the Treasury and the incoming administration, working in partnership to create a dynamic Northern Ireland economy and world class public services for all in Northern Ireland and, together with the Irish Government, to create a strong all of Ireland economy.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Code of Conduct (Local Councillors)

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): In April, the Government issued the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007, promulgating a simpler, clearer and more proportionate model code of conduct for local councillors. The Order came into effect on 3 May.

The revised code delivers the promise we gave in the Local Government White Paper, "Strong and Prosperous Communities", last October, that the Government would provide a simpler, clearer and more proportionate code of conduct for local authority members and amend the rules on personal and prejudicial interest to support members' advocacy role.

These changes to the code remove the barriers, which have prevented councillors speaking up for their constituents. In particular, for example, members of a council's planning or licensing committee will have more opportunities to represent their constituents on planning and licensing issues that affect their wards. The changes also ensure that the remit of the code in respect of conduct in a member's private capacity is restricted to conduct for which a criminal conviction has been received.

We have also, in particular, had regard to the over 900 responses we received to our recent consultation on the proposed changes to the code and amended the text of the code to improve its accessibility and user friendliness. We believe that overall the new revised code will help to maintain public confidence and trust in local government, which is necessary if councils are to fulfil their leadership role.

Copies of the order have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and circulated to local authorities and other stakeholders.

DEFENCE

RAF Communications (Hub Delay)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I announced on 17 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 25WS, that to enable the more effective use of Defence resources, an RAF Communications Hub would be formed at RAF Leeming. I also announced that communications personnel would move from RAF Sealand to RAF Leeming by April 2006 and that communications personnel from RAF Brize Norton and RAF High Wycombe would move to RAF Leeming in 2007.

The initial move has been successfully completed on time in April 2006 and around 90 communications personnel from RAF High Wycombe are on schedule to move this year. However, there will now be a phased relocation of communications personnel from RAF Brize Norton to RAF Leeming beginning in summer 2008 as technical and domestic accommodation becomes available. The delay in provision of new-build accommodation has been occasioned by the routine adjustment of funds to ensure that our resources are allocated in line with Defence priorities.

Service Life Insurance Scheme

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): Today, I am announcing that the MOD, in association with Sterling Life, has launched a new voluntary life insurance scheme, Service Life Insurance (SLI). In the run-up to Operation TELIC, life insurance companies reacted to what they saw as the increased risk to Service personnel by closing schemes to new applicants, increasing premiums or excluding benefits for chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons. The Department has been actively pursuing an enduring solution.

MOD selected Sterling Life through an EU-wide competitive tender process to provide appropriate life insurance for which applications will be accepted from today. SLI guarantees worldwide war and terrorism life cover to all Service personnel, by means of a unique partnering agreement between MOD and Sterling Life. The SLI Scheme is designed to be self-funding, and the Department has accepted a potential liability which received Parliamentary approval in May 2005, for excessive operational deaths.

The SLI Scheme complements the excellent death-in-service arrangements already available to Service personnel and offers an attractive addition for long-term life insurance requirements for members of our Armed Forces.

SLI premiums are extremely competitive, particularly for those individuals whose military trade usually results in an additional premium being applied. SLI has no extra premiums for any military trade, even such as being a member of a bomb disposal or special forces unit. It will accept all Regulars and Reservists—even if they are on operations or under orders to deploy. Applicants will be accepted without any medical underwriting and SLI will cover all service-recognised hazardous sports. Premium rates are guaranteed not to increase for the life of the policy. These are significant new SLI benefits from Sterling Life.

I am delighted to announce the launch today of this Service Life Insurance Scheme which provides a ground-breaking new choice for all Regulars and Reservists. I am confident that through our agreement with Sterling Life we have today provided a world-class solution to a worldwide problem. I will arrange for copies of the SLI brochure, which gives further details of the Scheme, to be placed in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Young Adult Offenders

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): In November 2005, the then Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart), announced the National Offender Management Service Young Adult Offenders (YAOs) Project, as part of the new approach to offender management, to consider the implications of abolishing DYOI and the regime that would need to be in place to ensure sufficient safeguards for this age group both in custody and the community.

The project has reviewed the needs of YAOs, the appropriate age range, the use of the prison estate, the regimes and interventions required in prison and in the community and considered the implications of abolishing Detention in a Young Offender Institution (DYOI).

There has been full consultation with internal and external stakeholders. Significant representatives of voluntary and community groups have been consulted in particular Barrow Cadbury, Prison Reform Trust, NACRO and Rainer. Consideration has been given to HM Inspectorate's recent thematic report on young adult offenders. Future implementation will include consideration of Baroness Corston's recommendations regarding women offenders in the Criminal Justice System.

We have concluded that taking account of the constraints posed by current prison capacity and the need to undertake further work to test out an approach to Young Adult Offenders the time is not yet right to abolish Detention in a Young Offender Institution (DYOI).

However, we are firmly committed to further work to ensure we plan for appropriate provision to address the specific needs of 18 to 24-year olds. We will progress a suite of proposals to enable us to test the best approaches both in custody and in the community by:

Piloting a specification for a new regime for this age group as an integral part of the new prison capacity building arrangements;

Setting up a test/pilot to consider the specification and funding required to take this 'through the gate' for YAOs subject to the requirement for section 65 supervision;

Establishing a demonstrator project to explore the management of this age group in the community in Wales. Particularly to take a hard look at a focused use of mentoring and wraparound services.

Regional Offender Managers agreeing key priorities for this age group in 2008-09 and in the medium to longer term NOMS will consider developing a specification for this age group to be delivered by providers;

Incorporating an adolescent development package into the Offender Manager training at the next review;

Implementing recommended actions arising from the Mubarek recommendations 16 and 17 as an integral part of future YAO policy;

Ensuring projects for offenders serving under 12 months in custody specifically include the needs of this age group especially those subject to Section 65 requirement of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 for supervision; with the Reconnect project exploring the nature, impact and cost of mentoring, needs assessments and work plans/compacts;

Through our new Volunteering Strategy promoting the use and evaluation of mentoring as part of the package of Offender Management;

Implementing an improved NOMS/YJB protocol to ensure effective transition arrangements are put in place.

I am promoting this package of proposals as they represent a positive and considered way forward that can be safely introduced given current constraints on provider services and an approach which can be built upon over time. I repeat our firm commitment to find the best approaches to the needs of this age group.

There will be a further report to the House later in the year.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

EU Informal Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): An informal meeting of the EU Competitiveness Council took place in Wuerzburg in Germany from 26-28 April. The Council was split into two halves. Part I dealt with Science and Research. Part II dealt with Economic issues.

Part I Science and Research

Malcolm Wicks represented the UK at Part I of the Council. The Council was chaired by Annette Schavan, German Federal Minister for Education and Research.

Under the first item, research Ministers debated the recent Commission Green Paper on the European Research Area. Along with other Ministers, the Minister my hon. Friend for Science and Innovation emphasised the importance of this debate on fostering the free movement of knowledge and overcoming fragmentation in Europe, and stressed the need to include consideration of subsidiarity and European added value.

Under the second item there was a discussion of the proposed European Institute of Technology, where my hon. Friend and other Ministers welcomed progress made in negotiations under the German presidency while noting outstanding financial and governance issues to be addressed.

In the final item, the German presidency presented a proposal for an IPR charter following a recent Commission communication on knowledge transfer.

Part II Economics issues

I represented the UK at Part II of the Council. The Council was chaired by Michael Glos, German Federal Minister for Economics and Technology.

Under the first item, Ministers discussed Europe's single market and global competition. In particular they focused on factors affecting the attractiveness of the EU as an investment location, noting that the Ernst and Young European Attractiveness Survey confirms that the EU remains the most attractive region in the world for more than 50 per cent. of the companies surveyed. In my intervention I emphasised the economic factors which had made the UK a highly attractive investment location.

As a second item, Ministers discussed the role of EU state aid in influencing foreign direct investment in the EU. Ministers noted that the Ernst and Young Survey recorded that only a relatively small proportion of companies considered state aid was a significant factor in their investment decisions. Commissioner Kroes, myself and a majority of other Ministers who spoke intervened to oppose a Presidency suggestion that consideration be given to relaxing EU state aid rules in order to match aid offered by third countries, arguing that this would distort competition and risk WTO litigation.

Mr. Richard Steele

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): The Department of Trade and Industry issued a written answer to House of Commons Parliamentary Question Number 2005/3120 from my hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell), 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, Volume 442, column 1635W, which sought information regarding the (a) prosecutions and (b) successful prosecutions for insider trading since 1991. Richard Steele was named as a person who had been convicted of such an offence. The record should show that whilst criminal proceedings were brought against Richard Steele for insider trading, namely an offence contrary to Section 52 of the Criminal Justice Act 1993, he was not convicted of that (or any other) offence. The record should also therefore show that from 1997 to 13 February 2006 proceedings were brought against 15 individuals, of which eight were successful.

TRANSPORT

South-West Regional Planning Assessment (Railways)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department for Transport has today published the South West Regional Planning Assessment for the railway (RPAs), the latest in the series of eleven RPAs covering England and Wales. Copies of the document have been placed in both Libraries of the House today and can also be

downloaded from the Department's website http://www.dft.gov.uk.

The South West RPA covers the entire South West of England region including Bristol, Plymouth, Bournemouth/Poole, Exeter and Swindon.

RPAs provide the link between regional spatial planning (including preparation of regional transport strategies) and planning for the railway by both Government and the rail industry, and are designed to inform the development of the Government's strategy for the railway. They look at the challenges and options for development of the railway over the next 20 years, in the wider context of forecast change in population, the economy and travel behaviour.

An RPA does not commit the Government to specific proposals. Instead it sets out the Government's current thinking on how the railway might best be developed to allow wider planning objectives for a region to be met, and identifies the priorities for further development work.

It is the Government's intention to publish the remaining RPAs covering the Thames Valley, East Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber, and Wales later this year.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 9 May 2007

DEFENCE

Op Banner Commemoration

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I am pleased to announce plans to arrange a service of remembrance in 2008 to pay tribute to the members of the armed forces who lost their lives as a result of the violence in Northern Ireland. The current peace would not exist without their sacrifice and the efforts of over 300,000 military personnel who served in the Province as well as the dedicated MOD civilians and contractors who supported them there. The service will commemorate all military and defence personnel killed or injured as a result of the situation in Northern Ireland. The Ministry of Defence will be working with veterans' organisations and other interested parties in the coming months to help us plan the event. Further details will be announced before the end of the year.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I will be representing the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels.

The Presidency will seek political agreements on measures to ensure the recovery of the European eel stock to previous historic levels and on a recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

There will be a policy debate based on a Presidency questionnaire on the Commission's report on cross-compliance. The report forms the first stage of the Commission's review of cross compliance due for completion by the end of 2007, and deals with administrative issues such as inspection and enforcement arrangements.

The Agriculture Commissioner will then update Council on the negotiations of the two proposals on the common organisation of the market in cereals, in response to a large increase in intervention purchasing of maize: one proposal will deliver extra financial support to compensate for high interest charges; the other will seek to overcome the problem by allowing the market to operate freely and abolish the intervention for maize.

The Agriculture Commissioner will also present proposals to revise the sugar restructuring scheme. Following the Presentation Ministers will hold an exchange of views on proposals.

The Presidency will seek political agreement on a proposal laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production.

The Council will hold a policy debate and adopt Conclusions on the outcome of a recent conference on "Animal welfare - Improving by labelling".

The Council will adopt Conclusions on the better regulation in the plant varieties and seeds sectors.

A number of issues, as follows, will be raised under any other business:

There will be updates from the Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner on Avian Influenza and the EC-Russian Federation veterinary and phytosanitary agreement negotiations.

The Agriculture Commissioner will give an update on the WTO agricultural negotiations.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact (IACDI)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): The Government are committed to ensuring that the UK's aid budget is used effectively to make a difference to the lives of the world's poorest people and that it represents value for money.

As our spending on international development increases, we want to continue to ensure that resources for development are used well and as intended; that mechanisms are in place for learning lessons and monitoring effectiveness; and that aid has a real impact on helping to reduce poverty and change the lives of poor people.

Our international development assistance is currently subject to external scrutiny in the UK by Parliament, the Public Accounts Committee, the International Development Select Committee and the National Audit Office. The international mechanisms include monitoring of aid effectiveness under the Paris declaration, and peer review of donors within the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). DFID has its own evaluation, audit, and reporting under the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act. DFID also talks to civil society about new policy and lessons arising from our operational experience.

Having reviewed these arrangements, and how we might strengthen the independence of our evaluation, I have decided to set up a new Independent Advisory Committee for Development Impact (IACDI).

The Committee, which will be independent of DFID, will have four main functions:

First it will determine which programmes and areas of UK development assistance will be evaluated, and when, by approving the evaluation programme and priorities currently identified by DFID's Evaluation Department.

Secondly it will identify any gaps in the planned programme of evaluations and make proposals for new areas or other priorities as required.

Thirdly it will assess the amount of effort and level of resources being devoted to different types of evaluation by DFID, other parts of the UK Government and, if appropriate, by NGOs using DFID resources.

Fourthly it will determine whether relevant standards (for example, of the OECD/DAC) are being applied, and comment on the overall quality of the programme evaluation carried out against these.

For major evaluations, members of the independent Committee will chair the relevant steering group and will have full responsibility for approving and releasing final reports for publication. This will provide a built-in challenge function and an assurance that evaluation standards have been met.

The Chair of IACDI will write annually, through a published letter to me, providing an overview of lessons learned and advice on how evaluation can be further improved. I will then set out the action that we propose to take in response.

To ensure full independence and transparency, the Chair and the six members of the Committee will be appointed under Nolan procedures. The selection process will look for respected experts on international development and evaluation, both from the UK and developing countries. Members will be chosen by the Chair of IACDI to avoid any conflicts of interest. The minutes of all IACDI meeting will be published.

I have discussed with the National Audit Office how it can assist, given its role in providing an independent assurance of our work. I am pleased to say that it has agreed to carry out a review of DFID's performance on evaluation and to repeat this every three to four years.

The NAO review will complement the work of the IACDI and will focus more broadly on performance management systems across DFID. IACDI on the other hand, will get directly involved in the strategy and work plans for evaluation and in ensuring that the recommendations from evaluation work are followed up. I will also invite the National Audit Office to participate in the work of IACDI so that it can draw on this in its own auditing programme.

The creation of IACDI will be an important step forward in assuring all of us that UK development assistance is making a difference. But I also intend to continue to seek improvements in the accountability and scrutiny of development assistance internationally. DFID is actively exploring opportunities for international collaboration with partner Governments and other donors and, in the longer term, I hope we can work towards an international approach that can enhance the evaluation of development assistance. I will report further to the House in due course.

Taken together, I believe that these proposals will assist in ensuring independent, open, and transparent scrutiny of our development assistance.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Intergovernmental Agreement with Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): Following the successful restoration of devolution in Northern Ireland, I am pleased to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Ireland.

This treaty reaffirms both Governments' commitment to protect, support and where appropriate implement the provisions of the Belfast agreement, subject to the alterations to the operation of the institutions agreed at St. Andrews. The conditions laid out in legislation for the restoration of the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland have now been met. In this historic context, it is fitting that these commitments are formalised promptly with the Irish Government and the Government welcome this opportunity to provide a shared understanding of these arrangements across these islands.

This agreement was laid before Parliament as a Command Paper (Cm 7078) on Wednesday 18 April. The tenets of this agreement have been considered by Parliament during the passage of the Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2006 and, following the successful restoration of devolution to Northern Ireland on 8 May, the Government consider it appropriate to truncate the standard 21-day laying period under the Ponsonby rule to ensure the agreement can be brought into force as soon as possible. This will provide swift formal clarity to the agreed alterations to the arrangements and institutions established by the Belfast agreement of 1998.

Copies of the agreement and its associated explanatory memorandum have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and distributed to Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 10 May 2007

TREASURY

Asset Freezing Regime

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): In my written ministerial statement of 10 October 2006, I undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's asset freezing regime. This is the second of these reports and covers the period January-March 2007.[1]

Asset-freezing framework

The Government launched their strategy to combat money laundering and terrorist finance on 28 February 2007.

As my statement to Parliament of the same date explained, the strategy outlines the Government's key priorities for the future, along with measures to deliver these. New measures include further steps to promote the proactive use of asset-freezing powers; notably, the creation of a dedicated Treasury asset-freezing unit that will increase the expertise and operational focus brought to bear on asset freezing, in response to advice from law enforcement and security agencies.

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter January-March 2007, the Treasury made 19 domestic designations under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006 and the Al-Qaeda and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2006.

Of these, 12 persons already designated under earlier Orders were re-designated under these Orders.

The Terrorism Order and the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Order provide, where appropriate, for designations to be made confidentially and with restricted circulation of notice. No persons were designated on this basis in this quarter.

Two persons were designated on the basis of closed source evidence provided by law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

There were no financial sanctions listings, in relation to terrorism or Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, of persons with links to the UK at the EU or the UN.

No designated persons have been delisted in this quarter.

A total of 223 separate accounts and approximately £555,000[2] of suspected terrorist funds have been frozen in the UK since 2001.

Litigation

There has been one case of domestic litigation regarding financial sanctions.

The Court of Appeal judgment of 6 March 2007 in the case of M, A, and MM *v.* Her Majesty's Treasury [2006] EWCH 2328 (Admin), confirmed the High Court judgment of 22 September 2006 upholding the Treasury's actions regarding benefits payments to the households of listed individuals.

Reviews

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review. A number of formal reviews have been initiated in this quarter and the reviews of 12 cases have been completed. In all cases decisions were taken following the review to maintain the asset freeze.

Licensing policy

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1452 (2002), the Treasury operates a licensing system whereby designated persons and others are able to apply to make or receive payments under specific and, if necessary, monitored conditions. In this quarter, the following licences were issued:

four listed persons were granted basic expenses licences;

three of which were for benefits payments

four listed persons were granted extraordinary expenses licences; and

twenty-three listed persons were granted legal expenses licences.

In addition, the households of two listed persons were granted benefits licences in accordance with the policy I set out in my statement of 3 July 2006 to Parliament.

[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure includes $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using current exchange rates. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

Vulture Funds

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): I deplore the activities of so-called vulture funds that seek to profit from debts owed by the poorest countries in the world. I am determined to limit the damage done by such funds. The UK will therefore:

call on the World Bank to make the IDA Debt Reduction Facility available to HIPC countries before they reach decision point, in order to help countries to eliminate their commercial debts at the earliest possible opportunity and thereby reduce the likelihood of debts being sold on to aggressive creditors;

stand ready to scale up our contribution to the Debt Reduction Facility in support of this policy change;

take forward talks with leading commercial creditors on a voluntary code of conduct that will set out the actions that responsible creditors should take to help reduce the risk of litigation, including the requirement to participate in collective action to reduce unsustainable debts;

work with our G8 partners to develop a Charter on Responsible Lending that includes a commitment to protect developing countries from vulture fund activity;

work to ensure that HIPCs have access to the legal assistance they need to defend themselves against litigation, including by supporting proposals at the African Development Bank to develop a Legal Assistance Facility to help countries facing legal action gain access to technical and legal support;

continue to strengthen debt management capacity amongst HIPCs.

I will also take forward discussions with my international partners on this issue, including at the G8 Finance Ministers' summit in Potsdam.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): The lifespan of the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation is to be extended by three years to 2014, following a public consultation.

The Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation was established to lead a step change in Thurrock, harnessing the opportunities presented by growth and regeneration to encourage new businesses and jobs, to develop new homes, schools and leisure activities, and to encourage good quality accessible services and a robust social infrastructure in support of a prosperous community. This lifespan extension will provide the Corporation with the necessary time to overcome barriers and challenges to the achievement of these aspirations, allowing them to build on their significant progress to date. Through continued joint working with Thurrock Council and other partner organisations, the TTGDC will be able to make the most of Thurrock for all members of the community.

Thurrock is a key part of the Thames Gateway and the lifespan extension will help the Development Corporation to deliver effectively its proposed business plan and regeneration strategy and to promote key projects in the borough.

To inform the decision, a public consultation was undertaken from 2 October to the end of December 2006, seeking views from those consulted originally when the Thurrock Development Corporation was established. The vast majority of the responses were positive, recognising the challenges faced by the Development Corporation in Thurrock. A summary of responses to the consultation will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation was established by Parliamentary Order in October 2003. The Order designating the urban development area and establishing the Thurrock Development Corporation (SI 2003 No. 2896) was laid before the House on 2 July 2003 and was debated on 15 October, coming into force on 29 October 2003. More information about the TTGDC is available at www.thurrocktgdc.org.uk.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Pay Review Body

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The supplement to the 2007 report of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) making recommendations on the pay of service medical and dental officers has been published today. Copies of the report are available in the Library of the House.

The AFPRB has recommended an increase in basic military salary of 2 per cent. for all regular and reserve Defence Medical Services consultants, general medical practitioners and general dental practitioners. The review body also recommends a pay increase of 2 per cent. for junior doctors and cadets. In addition, the review body recommends that there should be an increase of 2 per cent. in the value of trainer pay, but no increase in the value of distinction and clinical excellence awards.

The Government have agreed to accept the AFPRB's recommendations in full, with implementation effective from 1 April 2007. The additional cost to the defence budget will be met within existing departmental expenditure limits.

The Government have also accepted the AFPRB's recommendations to introduce a targeted financial retention incentive for emergency, intensive therapy and operation theatre nurses and an increase in the sum offered under the golden hello scheme for the same three nurse specialties.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Broiler Directive

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): On 7 May European Union (EU) Ministers agreed a Directive which for the first time establishes rules governing the conditions under which meat chickens are kept. The package of new measures includes detailed requirements for holdings where meat chickens are kept, the introduction of a maximum stocking density limit, data collection and scientific monitoring of impacts on chicken welfare, training for the industry and a possible new welfare labelling regime following a report from the European Commission. The Directive will come into force in 2010.

The welfare of meat chickens is a major concern to people in the United Kingdom and throughout the EU. This is a major sector of livestock production with some 850 million meat chickens produced in the UK every year and 4 billion across the EU. It is therefore only right that we set harmonised welfare rules for these animals.

It has taken nearly two years of negotiations to reach this point and Germany must be congratulated on concluding the Directive during their Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Some member states would have liked to further water down the proposals in respect of the maximum stocking density limit but the UK successfully fought off this challenge with support from other strongly minded welfare countries.

The Directive provides a platform on which to build as well as sending a clear message to the rest of the world that the we and the EU care about animal welfare.

HEALTH

Mixed-sex Accommodation in Hospitals

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): Today, the Department is publishing a report from the chief nursing officer on progress with mixed-sex accommodation in hospitals. This report highlights the actions the national health service

should take to improve the provision of single-sex accommodation, and includes practical advice for trusts.

The chief executive of the NHS, David Nicholson, has reiterated our commitment to single-sex accommodation by including it in the operating framework for the NHS for 2007-08. In addition, strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been asked to review performance in this area, and have been working with a number of trusts to agree plans for improvement. SHAs are also publishing statements today on the position in their region.

Patients expect the NHS to deliver high standards of privacy and dignity that include, but are not restricted to, single-sex accommodation. Single-sex accommodation should be the norm in elective care, and remains the ideal for emergency treatment. However, we recognise that sometimes the need to treat and admit must take priority—the NHS will not turn a patient away just because a "right-sex" bed is not immediately available.

Copies of the chief nursing officer's report have been placed in the Library.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 14 and 15 May in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I will represent the UK. The Minister of State with responsibility for defence equipment and support, Lord Drayson, will also attend the Defence Ministers' discussions on 14 May, while Sir John Grant (UK permanent representative to the EU) will take the chair for the Development Ministers' discussions on 15 May.

The agenda items are as follows:

FOREIGN MINISTERS

General Affairs

Preparation of the European Council on 21-22 June

The Council will discuss the presidency's draft annotated agenda for the 21-22 June European Council. The main topic for the European Council will be the constitutional treaty. But we expect it also to cover a number of justice and home affairs and economic and social issues, including strengthening police co-operation and climate change. There is also likely to be discussion of topical foreign policy issues.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

World Trade Organisation

The Commission is expected to update the Council on its latest contacts on the WTO/Doha round.

Sudan

The Council is expected to discuss recent developments in Sudan. Although the Government of Sudan have accepted the second phase of the UN support for the African Union peacekeeping force, they have yet to accept the third phase, a hybrid African Union/UN force. The conclusions of the April GAERC maintain EU pressure on Khartoum to accept the full African Union/UN peacekeeping force as well as the ceasefire and reinvigorated political process agreed in Addis Ababa last November.

The Government are also urging EU and other international partners to address the gaps in funding for the African Union mission in Sudan.

Somalia

The Government welcome EU action in the region in support of the African Union mission to Somalia and the proposed Reconciliation Congress. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions stressing the importance of implementing UNSCR 1744 to address the political, security and humanitarian challenges in Somalia.

Preparation of the EU-Russia Summit

The Council is expected to discuss EU-Russia relations and preparations for the EU-Russia summit in Samara on 17 and 18 May.

Black Sea Region

Romania has asked to discuss the Black Sea region. The Government broadly support the Commission's Black Sea strategy, which gives an overview of the policy challenges in the region, the EU's approach to the region and proposes co-operation with regional organisations.

Iran

The High-Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana is expected to brief the Council on his recent meeting with Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council on 25 April. The presidency is also expected to brief the Council on the E3+3 (Germany, France, UK, US, Russia and China) political directors meeting on 2 May. This was the latest in a series of exchanges on Iran, and expressed strong agreement on the way ahead, reflecting shared concerns about Iran's non-compliance with International Atomic and Energy Agency Board and Security Council requirements.

Iraq

The presidency is expected to update the Council on the Iraq neighbours conference and the launch of the international compact in Sharm el-Sheikh on 3-4 May. The Government have urged EU support for Iraq's efforts to build constructive relationships with its neighbours.

Arab League Initiative

Malta has asked to discuss engagement with the Arab League on regional issues. The Government support the presidency's proposal to organise an EU troika meeting with representatives from the Arab League in Berlin in the coming months.

Middle East Peace Process

The Council is expected to discuss the Quartet's meeting with the Arab League on 4 May and ways to build on increasing Arab involvement. The Council is also likely to discuss the political situation in Israel following the Winograd inquiry and ways to build the capacity of Palestinian institutions, including the re-engagement of the EUPOL COPPS (the EU's police mission in the Palestinian territories), which the Government support as a key to success in the wider political process.

Western Balkans

We expect the Council to discuss Kosovo and Serbia.

The February Council conclusions set out the EU's support for former President Ahtisaari's proposals on Kosovo's status and make the restart of stabilisation and association agreement talks with Serbia conditional upon concrete action by a new Serb Government on co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The Government fully support this position.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions welcoming the establishment of the regional co-operation council. If a Government is formed in Belgrade, the Council may also adopt conclusions on Serbia.

International Moratorium on the Death Penalty

Italy has asked to discuss EU action to promote a global moratorium and eventual abolition of the death penalty. The Government fully support work towards this important EU objective.

JOINT SESSION OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AND DEFENCE MINISTERS

European Security and Defence Policy, (ESDP) Mission in Kosovo

We expect the Council to discuss co-ordination arrangements between the head of the planned ESDP mission and the EU special representative in Kosovo as well as coordination between the EU and NATO. The Government will want to reiterate the importance of continued EU unity on the Kosovo final status process as expressed in the conclusions of the February GAERC.

European Security and Defence Policy Mission in Afghanistan

The Council is expected to discuss a civilian European Security and Defence Policy mission to Afghanistan in policing with links to the wider rule of law. This is likely to be launched in Kabul on 15 June. The Government strongly support the mission as an important contribution to stability and development in Afghanistan.

Security Sector Reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The Council is expected to discuss progress on security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Much of the Government's support in this sector is channelled through the EU security sector reform advisory mission (EUSEC Congo) and the EU police mission to Kinshasa (EUPOL Kinshasa). With the formation of a new Government, the EU is seeking to modify the mandates of the two missions to ensure that support is in line with the needs of the Congolese. The Government hope that in the future the two missions will combine to look at the security sector as a whole.

DEFENCE MINISTERS

Operations

Military aspects of EU/UN Co-operation

The presidency is expected to report on the outcome of a seminar on "Military Aspects of EU/UN Co-operation in Crisis Management, in the Light of EUFOR RD Congo" (the EU military mission which provided support to the UN during the 2006 election period in the Democratic Republic of Congo). The Council is expected to adopt conclusions expressing the EU's commitment to further strengthening co-operation with the UN. The Government support this commitment. Improving the EU's ability to cooperate with key international organisations, including the UN, is key to achieving the effective multilateral system, referred to in the European security strategy, for dealing with crises on a global basis.

Lessons Learned from EUFOR RD Congo

The Council is expected to discuss the lessons learned from EUFOR RD Congo. The Government support ongoing work to address the lessons learnt and believe this process will be a valuable contribution leading to improvements in future mission planning.

Western Balkans

High-Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana is expected to brief the Council on the ongoing reconfiguration of EUFOR ALTHEA, the EU military mission in Bosnia. The Government are pleased that the improved security situation has allowed the EU to reduce its level of forces, reflecting the considerable achievements of the international community in Bosnia.

AMIS (Sudan/Darfur)

The Council is expected to discuss the situation in Sudan/Darfur, and to adopt conclusions reaffirming support for the African Union mission in Sudan and underlining the urgency of transition to a full African Union/UN hybrid mission.

European Defence Agency

The head of the agency will present his report to the Council on the agency's activities in the previous and current year. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions noting the report and welcoming progress made. The Government support the work done by the agency over the reporting period.

Military Capabilities

Rapid Response

The Council is expected to discuss ongoing work on a possible revision of the EU military rapid response concept, based on a tri-presidency (Germany, Portugal, Slovenia) "Food for Thought" paper. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions noting that the Battlegroups initiative has achieved full operational capability from 1 January 2007. The Government support efforts to improve the EU's ability to react quickly to an emerging crisis, and are pleased with the progress of the Battlegroups initiative, championed during the UK presidency in 2005.

Headline Goal Process

The presidency is expected to update the Council on progress made on the headline goal process to strengthen European defence capabilities. The Government strongly support this work. Improving military capabilities of EU member states is a key objective of the European security and defence policy, and we welcome progress in the work conducted by the EU military staff and headline goal taskforce.

Capability Development Plan

The European Defence Agency will update the Council on progress on the capability development plan. The Government believe this is important work, which has the potential to provide the necessary link

between the EU planning process and long-term capability work being conducted by the European Defence Agency.

Progress Report

The presidency will submit a report to the Council, setting out the progress made on military capability development over the last six months. The Council is expected to note this in the conclusions.

DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS

Aid for Trade and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

The Council is expected to discuss a communication on a future Joint Commission/member states' strategy for delivering effective aid for trade commitments. The strategy will include a roadmap for the delivery of the Commission's and member states' commitments to each increase trade related assistance to €1 billion by 2010 (€2 billion in total). The Council will also be invited to discuss progress in negotiations on economic partnership agreements (EPAs). The Council is also expected to adopt conclusions. The Government will be urging donors to empower developing countries to demand increased aid for trade and will work to ensure that the EU market access offer is not diluted.

Complementarity and Division of Labour

The Council is expected to discuss aid effectiveness, and adopt conclusions on a voluntary code of conduct to promote complementarity and improved division of labour arrangements between member states and the Commission. The Government welcome the code of conduct but stress the need for arrangements to be flexible and practice-orientated.

Implementation of the Monterrey commitments

The Council is expected to review the implementation of commitments on financing for development (Monterrey), including monitoring the increase of both Community and member states' official development assistance (ODA). The Government are keen that the Council promotes the use of national timetables to achieve ODA targets.

Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries-EU Cooperation

The presidency is expected to brief the Council on progress on the EU-Africa strategy and adopt conclusions establishing a new EU-Africa energy partnership at the EU-Africa summit in December 2007. The Council is also expected to approve the agenda and Council positions for the EC-ACP Council of Ministers meeting on 25 May.

Madagascar Action Plan

The Government of Madagascar have recently completed a poverty-reduction strategy—the Madagascar action plan. There will be a discussion of lessons learned.

Afghanistan

The German Development Minister is expected to update the Council on her recent visit to Afghanistan. The UN special representative for Afghanistan and the Afghan Finance Minster are expected to be present for the discussion. The Government welcome the focus on development support for Afghanistan.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity Cards

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): The second ID cards scheme costs report is being laid before Parliament today. It sets out an estimate of the public expenditure likely to be incurred on the ID cards scheme over the next 10 years, in accordance with section 37 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. It reports on developments over the past six months, since the first costs report was published on 9 October 2006.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 14 May 2007

TREASURY

Cash Ratio Deposits

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Cash Ratio Deposits (CRDs) are non-interest bearing assets deposited with the Bank of England by banks and building societies. They are used by the bank to finance its unremunerated activities, in particular its efforts to secure price stability and the stability of the financial system in general, from which these institutions are key beneficiaries.

The CRD scheme was extended to include building societies, and was placed on a statutory basis, when the Bank of England Act became law in 1998. The scheme was reviewed in 2003, when the threshold above which institutions are obliged to place deposits with the Bank of England was amended following a public consultation. The Government also committed to reviewing the scheme again within five years. The Treasury, working closely with the bank, will now begin that review.

The review will include an assessment of the detailed arrangements of the scheme as well as the continuing suitability of the scheme itself compared to alternative sources of funding. It will also address the impact of the scheme on the eligible institutions. The broad conclusions of the review will be the subject of a public consultation.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Temporary International Mechanism (Palestine)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): I wish to inform the House that the UK intends to make a further contribution of £3 million to the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) for Palestinian basic needs. This will provide support for Palestinian Government workers and will bring the UK's total bilateral contribution through the TIM to £15 million.

The situation for Palestinians remains very difficult. International donors, including the UK, created the TIM to provide continuing assistance. In 2006, the EU gave £123 million through the TIM—almost three times the amount we gave in support of the Palestinian Authority's budget in 2005. However, this has not been sufficient to offset the hardship caused by conflict, restrictions on movement and access, and Israel's decision to withhold Palestinian customs revenues.

The TIM has helped to avert a humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories. It is directly supporting the livelihoods of an estimated 900,000 Palestinians. It has provided fuel to sustain health, water and power services for 1.4 million people in Gaza. This recently included fuel for heavy equipment preventing a further collapse of the embankment of the sewage lake of Um Nasir. By the end of April the TIM had disbursed €209 million, a substantial contribution to the Palestinian economy.

However, I hope that the TIM will indeed only be temporary. Giving aid outside the Palestinian Government does not help to build its capacity to govern. That is why the UK welcomed the formation of the National Unity Government and continues to encourage all members of the NUG to commit to the three Quartet principles. This is asking no more of this Palestinian Government than we have of previous ones. In line with our policy, the UK Government will meet those members committed to the three Quartet principles, like the Finance Minister Salam Fayyad, whom I recently had discussions with in Washington. I fully support Dr. Fayyad's work to re-instate sound management of the Palestinian Authority's finances. Our aim, and that of the EU, is the rapid resumption of direct budgetary assistance to the Palestinian Authority once the Quartet principles have been met and appropriate fiduciary controls are in place. Until then, this latest contribution of £3 million will act as an essential lifeline by helping to keep services running, showing our continuing commitment to the Palestinian people, and bolstering the Palestinian economy.

JUSTICE

Public Guardianship Office

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. and noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Baroness Ashton of Upholland, has today made the following written ministerial statement.

"The following list sets out the key performance targets that have been set for the Public Guardianship Office (PGO) for April to September 2007 prior to the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 brings the replacement of the Public Guardianship Office with the Office of the Public Guardian and its head, the Public Guardian.

The Mental Capacity Act comes into force on 1 October 2007. The Public Guardianship Office will continue to operate until its replacement by the Office of the Public Guardian and the following key performance targets have been set for the office until that time.

KPI-1: To increase the satisfaction of its customers in the delivery of its services as measured by customer surveys throughout the year.

TARGETS:

a) To achieve an overall customer satisfaction rating of 75 per cent.

b) To reduce dissatisfaction amongst each of our different customer groups (lay, local authority and professional receivers, and EPA attorneys) by 10 per cent.

KPI-2: To maintain the proportion of effective visits by the Lord Chancellor's Visitors.

During the course of April to September 2007 the primary focus for the visiting service will be on preparation for the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act and developing a

new visiting process that will work effectively post enactment. During this period of transition the PGO will visit at least 4,000 clients. A 'visit' takes place when a visitor travels to and meets a PGO client in their home or abode. In this instance it does not constitute the receipt of a visit report by the PGO.

TARGETS:

Eighty per cent. of the 4,000 visits will be effective. An effective visit is one where:

(i) the visit is carried out within six months of the request being made; and

(ii) recommended action is initiated within one calendar month of the visit.

KPI-3: To maintain an effective system to collect and review accounts.

TARGETS:

a) To collect 60 per cent. of accounts, in all cases where an account is properly due, within two calendar months of the accounting end date; 85 per cent. within four calendar months of the accounting end date; and 95 per cent. within six calendar months of the accounting end date.

b) To review a sample of no less than 10 per cent. of accounts. One hundred per cent. of these will be reviewed within 20 working days.

KPI-4: To maintain our service to clients.

TARGETS:

Correspondence

a) Respond to:

(iv) 60 per cent. of correspondence within five working days of receipt;

(v) 80 per cent. of correspondence within 10 working days of receipt; and

(vi) 98 per cent. of correspondence within 15 working days of receipt.

Release of funds

b) To work with receivers to ensure they have access to funds to support the client for a year at a time. Where requests for release of funds are made over and above this the PGO will give directions to the Court Funds Office, or dispatch directions to the receiver (i) within five working days in 80 per cent. of cases and (ii) within 10 working days in 95 per cent. of cases; or explain why it cannot release funds.

Applications for Receivership

c) Providing it has all the appropriate forms and information required in support of an application, the PGO will list a case for hearing and notify the applicant within 10 working days in 95 per cent. of cases.

d) The hearing date will be within 35 working days of the date the hearing was listed in 95 per cent. of cases.

e) After the hearing, the PGO will notify applicants of the outcome of the hearing and request any further information the court requires within five working days in 95 per cent. of cases.

f) The PGO will issue orders within 10 working days in 95 per cent. of cases where all information and documents have been received.

Enduring Powers of Attorney

g) The PGO will register and return 98 per cent. of correctly lodged EPAs, where there are no objections, within five working days of the end of the statutory waiting period—35 days from the latest date on which notices of intention to register the EPA were sent or given.

Accuracy of Orders

h) The PGO will ensure that in at least 98 per cent. of cases, orders will not be returned because of errors.

KPI-5: To demonstrate improvements in efficiency in value for money terms we aim to meet unit cost targets for undertaking each case in each of our main business streams as follows:

TARGETS:

Enduring Powers of Attorney—£120 per case

Appointing and supervising Receivers—£575 per case

The PGO is required to recover the full cost of its services. This excludes the cost of remissions as the court of protection has the discretion to waive a fee if the client or their dependants would experience hardship by paying. For the 2007 period the PGO is seeking to recover costs as follows:

Enduring Powers of Attorney—100 per cent. of costs recovered

Appointing and supervising Receivers—82 per cent. of costs recovered.

KPI-6: The transition of PGO receivership cases in advance of the implementation of the MCA.

TARGET:

To review no fewer than 12,000 lay receiver cases by 30 September 2007."

Copies of the of the Public Guardianship Business Plan for April to September 2007 are available on the internet at: http://www.guardianship.gov.uk/forms documents/publications.htm.

Copies are also are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 15 May 2007

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Single Payment Scheme

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): In my written statement of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 59WS I promised to keep the House informed of progress with the Single Payment Scheme (SPS).

As at 11 May, a total of over £1.2 billion, representing around 80 per cent. of the estimated total fund for SPS 2006, had been paid in either full or partial payments to 100,599 (92 per cent.) claimants. About 8,500 claimants have yet to receive a payment, the majority of which have claims under €1,000. The remaining claims include many of the more complex cases.

In reviewing prospects over the remaining period to 30 June, I have been guided by the aims I set in my statement of 7 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 715 namely:

> "First, we want to maximise payments to farmers that arrive on a timely and predictable basis. That means making full payments where possible and partial payments where necessary. Secondly, we want to minimise the risk of late payment penalties and disallowance. Thirdly, we want our decisions this year to help the RPA establish a new and sound footing for the delivery of SPS in the future."

Against that background, I have confirmed with the RPA chief executive that, while it remains very challenging, the agency should remain focused on achieving the existing target of making 96.14 per cent. of payments by 30 June and continue to prioritise activity in respect of claimants who find themselves in difficult circumstances. I have also discussed with him additional steps that can be taken to help achieve this.

I reported in my statement of 22 February that some 25,000 cases from 2005 have been identified for review. With new ones identified as others are dealt with, that number now stands at 22,000. Outstanding work to review entitlement values for all these claims will now be undertaken separately from the process of making payments under the 2006 scheme. Any corrections to SPS 2005 and 2006 payments will follow as necessary. The RPA chief executive is taking a number of other steps to further streamline processing of claims.

In the meantime SPS 2007 application packs were dispatched ahead of RPA's internal target and completed forms have been received at a steady rate ahead of today's deadline. The first stages of processing have also begun. Alongside that work, adjustments to the underlying entitlement data will continue as part of the recovery actions required to provide a more predictable payment timetable for 2007 and to stabilise the service provided by the agency for the 2008 scheme year.

I am very aware of the impact on individual farmers of the payment timetable and the service levels the RPA currently offers in respect of the SPS. I remain committed to ensuring continued improvements in these areas. My noble friend Lord Rooker and I will continue to liaise with representatives of both the main farming bodies and the banks to ensure a common understanding of progress and issues that arise.

Regular updates on payment progress will continue to be published on the RPA website, including updates on estimated total claimant numbers and total fund values. I will also continue to keep the House informed as necessary.

HEALTH

Medical Training (Recruitment)

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): In my oral statement on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1367, I notified the House that there had been two security breaches of the medical training application service (MTAS) that arose on 25 and 26 April.

MWR Infosecurity has now completed a full security review of the MTAS system. Action has been taken by the contractor (Methods) to address the weaknesses identified. Both MWR and CESG (Communications Electronic Security Group), the national technical authority for information assurance, have confirmed that appropriate and sufficiently comprehensive action has been taken. The site was therefore re-opened last week, restricted to postgraduate deaneries only, to support the next steps in the recruitment process.

Because the investigation has made it clear that criminal offences may have been committed, the MWR analysis and report have been given to the police.

Following the recommendations of the review group chaired by Professor Neil Douglas, every eligible applicant for postgraduate medical training has now been guaranteed at least one interview for their first preference post. An additional 15,500 interviews have therefore been arranged as part of round 1 and are now taking place. I am extremely grateful to the consultants who have made themselves available for these additional interviews.

The review group met again on 9 May to consider the process of offering posts to candidates who are successful in their round 1 applications. The group agreed that offers for the current round will be managed locally by individual deaneries, on the basis of published MMC guidance.

Offers will be made to successful candidates on a phased basis as interviews for each specialty are completed. Subject to the outcome of the current judicial review, the first offers for hospital specialities in England will be made on or after 21 May 2007, with all initial offers made by early June. This process of making offers will continue until late June 2007, at which time round 1 will close, ensuring that candidates and employers have time to prepare for appointments commencing on 1 August 2007. Given the continuing concerns of junior doctors about MTAS, the system will not be used for matching candidates to training posts, but will continue to be used for national monitoring.

As we have stressed before, not all training posts will be filled in the current round and there will therefore be

further substantial opportunities for those who are not successful initially. The review group has agreed that this further recruitment will be locally planned and managed by the deaneries. An announcement of the process will be made shortly. Deaneries are continuing to work with the NHS and the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board to establish what additional training posts will be made available beyond the 23,000 training posts already available across the UK.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Illegal Working Action Plan

The Minister for Immigration and Asylum (Mr. Liam Byrne): I am today launching the "Border and Immigration Agency's Illegal Working Action Plan".

The action plan summarises seven key steps to ensure that we do not just stop illegal journeys to the UK, but the illegal jobs that draw illegal migrants to our country. Illegal working hurts good business, undercuts legal workers and creates illegal profits. It also puts illegal workers themselves at great risk. The measures summarised include:

tougher checks abroad;

identity cards for foreign nationals;

a new checking service for employers;

a sponsorship system that will ensure that employers take responsibility for whether their workers comply with the immigration rules;

additional resources for a new nation-wide enforcement effort;

better communication of simplified rules, and;

penalties for those who break them.

The action plan includes a public consultation on the implementation of measures to prevent illegal migrant working contained in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, specifically a proposed new system of civil penalties and a new criminal offence.

We pose specific questions for participants and invite wider comments on the Government's plans for the implementation of the legislation. The consultation document is available on the Border and Immigration Agency website at: www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Party Funding

The Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Jack Straw): I have today published the Government response to the report of the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee report on party funding: "Government Response to the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee First Report of Session 2006-07: Party Funding" (Cm 7123).

On behalf of the Government, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee, the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Mr. Beith) and his colleagues on the Committee for their hard work in conducting this important inquiry into the funding of political parties.

The Government are grateful to the Committee for its contribution to the current debate. The Government are committed to working out the practical arrangements required to take the regulatory framework to new levels of rigour, transparency, fairness and effectiveness. The Government further believe that all political parties must play their part in developing, and maintaining, a system of party funding in which the public can have confidence.

CABINET OFFICE

Draft Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong): I am today laying before Parliament a draft Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill, which is accompanied by a three-month public consultation.

The draft Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill is essentially composed of two parts. The first part will establish the Local Better Regulation Office as a statutory corporation and give it powers to help promote consistency and better communication among local authorities and central Government, helping them work together to keep the burdens of regulation on compliant businesses to a minimum. Part 2 of the Bill is enabling and will provide a framework for a range of new civil enforcement powers, which will allow regulators to respond to non-compliance in ways that are transparent, flexible, and proportionate.

In addition, I am launching a consultation on the regulators' compliance code (the code); this will be issued under part 2 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. The code sets out a framework for regulators that will encourage them to focus enforcement effort on businesses most likely to cause harm, while improving advice and reducing unnecessary burdens for others. This should help reduce the overall administrative burden of regulation on business.

The draft Bill and two consultations are presented as three documents. The first is Command Paper 7803, which contains the draft Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill and explanatory notes. The second is the accompanying consultation document, which also includes the impact assessment. The last is the consultation document for the regulators' compliance code. All three documents will be placed in the Library of the House for the reference of Members and copies will be made available in the Vote Office.

The consultations can be viewed on the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/current/index.asp.

The consultation period will run until 15 August 2007, and will be carried out in accordance with the Cabinet Office code of practice on consultation.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): I have today published two papers on child maintenance.

On 13 December 2006, the Government published its Command Paper: "A New System of Child Maintenance". Since publication we have conducted a number of consultation engagements and have received around 200 separate responses from stakeholders. The report I am publishing today provides a summary of the views that have been expressed. I am grateful to all who have contributed, and our response shows how the [redacted]s have developed as a result of the consultation p[redacted]

The Work and Pensions Select Committee published its report "Child Support Reform" on 15 March this year. I am publishing today the Government's response to the conclusions and recommendations of that report. I am grateful to the Committee for their work and analysis, which has made an important contribution to the ongoing development of our proposals.

Our proposals set out a clear way ahead for the child maintenance system. They will help lift many more children out of poverty, and enforce the rights of children and the responsibilities of parents. The streamlined system will offer a better service for clients and be more cost-effective for the tax payer.

Copies of both documents are available from the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 16 May 2007

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Age Regulations

The Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (Bill Rammell): Guidance on the vocational training aspects of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations is available on the DTI website. It is aimed at, amongst others, providers of further and adult education. The guidance makes it clear that age related practices, such as age related fee concessions, may be objectively justified where they are a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. It is for providers to produce evidence of such objective justification if called upon to do so, or to take their own legal advice if necessary. Guidance on objective justification is also available on page 30 of the ACAS guidance on the Age regulations.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health (Performance Targets)

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I have set Animal Health the following Performance Targets for 2007-08 split between Strategic targets in eight areas and Operational targets in four areas.

STRATEGIC TARGETS:

Leadership and our ability to manage change

1. To implement a new Operations Management Structure and keep management capacity under review

2. To implement succession planning and talent management schemes

3. To develop and state values and behaviours fit for the future

Professional skills and veterinary capacity

4. To implement plans for professional and technical training in specific skill areas

5. To implement the Veterinary and Technical Development Pathway

6. Implement phase one of the Official Veterinarians Reform Programme; begin pilots in April 2007 and (subject to meeting success criteria) extend pilots in year

Transforming delivery capacity

7. Complete solution confirmation and design stages of the Business Reform Programme

8. Complete the design, development, planning and implementation stages of the Contact Management module and the planning and pre- implementation preparatory stages of the TB and Brucella module of the programme

Maintaining and improving readiness and resilience

9. Conduct a rigorous assessment of current response capability, including immediate mobilisation capability, identify current gaps in field readiness and develop and implement an Action Plan for improvement

Developing an Operations Strategy

10. Develop the organisation's Operations Strategy by:

Establishing a Guidance Programme

Establishing an Investigations Programme

Document the enforcement hierarchy and review enforcement policy and efficacy

Working with others

11. Agree and implement collaborative working with the Rural Payments Agency

12. Collaborate with others to develop the e-portal Whole Farm Approach

13. To actively engage in the development of policy with policy customers

Quality Assurance

14. Develop and implement quality assurance arrangements for report case work and bovine TB testing

15. Pilot the development of private practice quality assurance schemes in the Official Veterinarians Reform Programme

Implementing the animal health and welfare strategy for Great Britain

16. We will review and refresh working relationships with local authorities

OPERATIONAL TARGETS:

Bovine TB

17. To ensure that at least 97 per cent. of blood samples submitted in the year for gamma-interferon tests are of a satisfactory condition. Where submitted samples are rejected by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), to work with them to investigate the reasons for failure. During the year, to develop and implement refinements to any stages in the collection, storage and transport process under our direct control that have a limiting influence on the proportion of successfully completed tests, and to issue instructions to ensure that consistent standards are followed throughout the agency

18. Ensure that blood samples are collected for no less than 95 per cent. of herds/ animals for which application of the gamma-interferon test is compulsory

19. Ensure that 65 per cent. of at risk TB herds are traced and tested within nine weeks of confirmation of the original test result. Within this timeframe, to prioritise the testing and tracing of cattle moved to three and four year parishes. Separately, we will lead discussions with TB Policy colleagues to identify and test other options for prioritising tracings work, for future implementation and monitoring

20. Issue movement restrictions on 98 per cent. of high-risk herds within two working days of confirmation of the TB test result (reactors). Where TB is suspected from lesions identified at slaughter, to ensure restriction notices are placed on 98 per cent. high-risk animals and herds within two working days of receipt of notification from the Meat Hygiene Service

Exotic disease outbreaks: Readiness and Resilience

21. Enhance emergency preparedness by planning and delivering a large- scale exercise on classical swine fever by the end of March 2008 involving Animal Health, DEFRA, the Devolved Administrations, the industry and operational partners. Plan, prepare and deliver a programme of local exotic disease exercises in Animal Health Divisional Offices, involving operational partners

22. Undertake an assessment of the readiness and resilience of the organisation's corporate centre through the application of the management assurance scheme, ERMAS

23. Develop and implement plans for professional and technical training to support those tasks critical to operational readiness and resilience

Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain

24. Building on the 2006-07 objectives, strengthen engagement with the Government Office Regions and key regional stakeholders to facilitate the development of preliminary regional Action Plans for the implementation of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain in the regions

Finance and Efficiency

25. Continue to work with Policy colleagues to implement the cumulative £4.2 million Gershon efficiency savings agreed with the Department for the 2004 Comprehensive Spending Review period.

Further details are given in the Animal Health Business Plan for 2007-08, a copy of which will be provided to the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum Seekers (Language Testing)

The Minister for Immigration and Asylum (Mr. Liam Byrne): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be of specific nationalities submit to language analysis. This replaces the Race Relations (Immigration and Asylum) (No. 3) Authorisation 2001, which is revoked.

The condition for making such a request is that the person claims to be a Somali or an Eritrean. The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case.

It is known that some applicants for asylum claim to be of a nationality or from a region or grouping that is not their own for the purpose of gaining residence in this country on an unfounded basis. The authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to ascertain the extent of this abuse, as well as to make decisions in individual cases.

This authorisation will be of four months duration. I will review the continued need for the authorisation before its expiry.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Committees

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): On 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 133-35WS, I announced details of machinery of Government changes to the Home Office and the then Department for Constitutional Affairs. Alongside this, I announced the creation of new Cabinet Committees on Crime and the Criminal Justice System and on Security and Terrorism. I am now announcing the membership and terms of reference of the new Committees.

Responsibility for the National Offender Management Service, and for criminal law and sentencing policy, moved from the Home Office to the new Ministry of Justice on 9 May. Public protection and crime reduction will continue to be the core focus of Government policy. The new Ministerial Committee on Crime and the Criminal Justice System (CJS) will take this forward.

The role of the Home Secretary and the capabilities of the Home Office in facing the terrorist threat have been strengthened and a new Office of Security and Counter Terrorism has been established in the Home Office. The Committee on Security and Terrorism (ST) will oversee this work, including international terrorism and counter radicalisation. It will be supported by two sub-Committees: Counter Radicalisation (ST(CR)); and, Protection and Resilience (ST(PR)). The existing sub-Committees on International Terrorism (DOP(IT)) and Protective Security and Resilience (DOP(IT)(PSR)) will therefore no longer operate.

The list of Cabinet Committees, which is available in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Cabinet Office website, will be updated in due course to reflect these changes.

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (CJS)

Composition

Prime Minister (Chair)

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State (Deputy Chair)

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Secretary of State for Health

Minister for the Cabinet Office and for Social Exclusion (and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

Secretary of State for Education and Skills

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and Minister for Women

Minister without Portfolio

Chief Whip (Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury)

Attorney-General

The Secretaries of State for Wales, for Northern Ireland, and for Scotland, Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council, and Lords Chief Whip and Captain of the Gentleman-at-Arms receive papers. Other Ministers may be invited to attend as necessary.

Terms of Reference

"To set and oversee the delivery of the Government's strategy for reducing crime and reoffending, for reforming the Criminal Justice System, and for policing."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND TERRORISM (ST)

Composition

Prime Minister (Chair)

Secretary of State for the Home Department (Deputy Chair[1])

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and Minister for Women

Secretary of State for Defence

Secretary of State for Transport

Attorney-General

Other Ministers will be invited to attend as necessary. The Heads of the Security and Intelligence Agencies, Chair of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Terrorism and Allied Matters Committee) and the Permanent Secretary, Intelligence, Security and Resilience will attend as required.

[1]Other ministers such as the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government may deputise as appropriate.

Terms of Reference

"To develop the Government's strategy for reducing the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, and to drive forward its delivery; and to consider related security issues as appropriate."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND TERRORISM MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON COUNTER RADICALISATION (ST(CR))

Composition

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and Minister for Women

(Chair)

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State

Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Minister for the Cabinet Office and for Social Exclusion (and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

Secretary of State for International Development

Secretary of State for Education and Skills

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Attorney-General

Other Ministers will be invited to attend as necessary. The Heads of the Security and Intelligence Agencies; the Permanent Secretary, Intelligence, Security and Resilience; the Permanent Secretary Communities and Local Government; and the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers will attend as required.

Terms of Reference

"To develop the Government's strategy for countering radicalisation and to drive forward its delivery, and to report to the Ministerial Committee on Security and Terrorism."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND TERRORISM SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE (ST(PR))

Composition

Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chair)

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Deputy Chair)

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Secretary of State for Health

Minister for the Cabinet Office and for Social Exclusion (and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Secretary of State for Wales

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and Minister for Women

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Secretary of State for Defence

Secretary of State for Transport, and Secretary of State for Scotland

Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police

Other Ministers, the Heads of the Security and Intelligence Agencies, the Permanent Secretary, Intelligence, Security and Resilience and the President of the Association of the Chief Police Officers will be invited to attend as necessary.

Terms of Reference

"To develop the Government's strategy:

(i) for reducing the vulnerability of the United Kingdom and to British interests overseas; and

(ii) for improving our capabilities for managing the consequences of major terrorist or other disruptive incidents in the United Kingdom;

and to drive forward the delivery of these strategies and report to the Ministerial Committee on Security and Terrorism."

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

National Minimum Wage/Employment Agency Standards (Enforcement)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): Since 1997, our approach to the UK labour market has been based on combining social justice with economic prosperity so that businesses grow and employment expands, delivering opportunity for all. Last year's "Success at Work" strategy paper set out the next stage of our approach. In particular, it emphasised the need for a stable and proportionate regulatory framework: one in

which complying with the law is simple and straightforward and where individuals get the rights to which they are entitled, supported by an effective enforcement and penalties regime.

We are today announcing a consultation about two key elements of the regulatory framework—the national minimum wage (NMW) and the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate—focusing on measures to promote compliance and improve fairness both for workers and compliant businesses.

We are proposing a new strategy to deal with cases of underpayment of the NMW, based on a fairer way of dealing with arrears, and a simpler, more effective penalty regime to deter non-compliance.

We are also consulting on strengthening the penalties regime for offences committed against employment agency legislation and clearer investigative powers for the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate. By making it more difficult for the small minority of rogue agencies to cut corners at the expense of the reputable side of the industry, these changes should benefit both workers and most agencies.

From today, copies of the consultation are available at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): I am today able to announce the publication of the Department for Work and Pensions departmental report. The report provides details of the Department's performance in 2006-07 against its public service agreement targets and sets out the Department's expenditure plans for 2007-08.

Copies of the report are available from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 17 May 2007

TREASURY

Unclaimed Assets Distribution

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): The Government are today publishing a consultation document setting out proposals for the distribution of unclaimed assets within the UK. This second unclaimed assets consultation document—"Unclaimed Assets Distribution Mechanism: A Consultation"—follows on from the previous document published in March this year[1] and provides further detail on how unclaimed assets will be reinvested in the community, with a focus, in England, on funding for youth services and financial capability and inclusion. The devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will determine their own priorities for distribution which reflect the needs of communities in each country.

The consultation document proposes using the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) as the main UK-wide unclaimed assets distribution body. BIG has a UK-wide distribution infrastructure in place, capacity to handle assets on this scale, extensive experience of delivering community programmes—with emphasis on young people, and the know-how on distributing funding through a different range of organisations, particularly from the third sector. Using BIG, an existing organisation, to distribute these assets will also help to limit spending on administration costs, meaning that more money reaches the front line.

The Government also want to use a proportion of unclaimed assets to help develop the social investment market and invest in the long-term sustainability of the third sector, and will look at another delivery option to channel funds into this area.

Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

[1] A UK Unclaimed Assets Scheme: a consultation, HM Treasury, March 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Casework Performance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Meg Munn): The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 2 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 require the Secretary of State to set and meet a timetable for the majority of planning cases which are to be decided by her (as opposed to being decided by a Planning Inspector) where the inquiry closed on or after 1 April 2005; and to make a report to Parliament each year on performance. This is intended both to ensure that such cases are dealt with expeditiously and to enable the parties to any particular case to know when they can expect to receive a decision.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has accordingly today laid before Parliament an Act Paper reporting on all decisions where the inquiry, hearing or site visit ended on or after 1 April 2005 and the decision was made between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007. Some 199 of the 200 decisions—99.5 per cent.—made by the Secretary of State during this period on cases other than appeals under tree preservation orders were made within their statutory timetables, as were 694 out of 702 decisions—98.9 per cent.—on tree preservation order appeals.

These provisions relate to decisions on called-in planning applications; planning appeals recovered for the Secretary of State's decision; other cases linked to such decisions, including listed building consent, conservation area consent, advertisement consent and enforcement notice appeals; and tree preservation order appeals. They do not apply to cases decided by Inspectors or to those decided by the Secretary of State jointly with a Minister of another Department.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Red Cross Relief Fund for UK Victims of Terrorism Abroad

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Tessa Jowell): The Chancellor announced in his 2006 Budget the creation of a new charitable fund to support British citizens injured in or affected by terrorist attacks abroad. The British Red Cross Relief Fund for UK Victims of Terrorism Abroad is formally launched today.

The £1 million contribution to the fund announced by the Chancellor will be used by the Red Cross to administer two separate schemes. £900,000 will establish an ongoing fund that will offer immediate small scale payments to UK victims bereaved or injured in terrorist attacks overseas. Payments will be made in two phases using a simple application process. Phase 1 payments of £3,000 will be paid immediately. Phase 2 payments of £12,000 will be available on application, to those severely injured or bereaved. Twenty-one interim payments of £3,000 have already been made since March 2006; all those who have received interim payments will also be eligible to apply for second phase payments of £12,000. The Red Cross hopes to be able to raise more money for the fund on the back of this initial Government donation.

The other £100,000 will be made available to the small number of households affected by terrorist attacks abroad prior to the fund's announcement last March, who are still suffering severe financial hardship as a result of what has happened to them.

The Government have worked closely with victims groups and the voluntary sector in drawing up the details of this fund, to ensure that all those who are tragically affected by overseas terrorist attacks will receive assistance which is sensitive and appropriate to their needs.

DEFENCE

Agency Key Targets

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): Key targets for the financial year 2007-08 for the following Ministry of Defence agencies and trading funds have been placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Analytical Services Agency
Defence Storage and Distribution Agency
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
Met Office

Key targets for ABRO, Defence Aviation Repair Agency, Defence Medical Education and Training Agency, Defence Vetting Agency, Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency, People Pay and Pensions Agency, Service Children's Education, Service Personnel and Veterans Agency and the UK Hydrographic Office will be published shortly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): My 2007 Departmental Report, which contains information on progress against the Department's strategic priorities, Public Service Agreement targets, the challenges ahead and summary expenditure plans for 2007-08, has been laid before Parliament today. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

HEALTH

Human Tissue and Embryos Bill

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): The Government have today laid before Parliament in draft form the Human Tissue and Embryos Bill (Cm 7087). The Bill is the outcome of an extensive review and public consultation. It represents a major overhaul of the existing law and regulatory structures. The draft Bill will now be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny.

The draft Bill has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): The Department's annual report for 2007 (Cm 7093) was laid before Parliament today.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

Children's Palliative Care Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): In May 2006, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced details of an independent review of palliative care services for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses and their families. This review offers an important opportunity to look at current provision and consider what more can be done to improve the sustainability and accessibility of services in both the statutory and voluntary sectors.

I welcome the thorough review that has been conducted by Professor Sir Alan Craft and Sue Killen and thank them for their efforts. Their report comes at an important point in the evolution of children's services and it is critical that children and their families have confidence in the valuable support that palliative care services currently provide.

I also recognise and pay tribute to the pioneering work carried out over the years by the voluntary sector and by hugely committed doctors, nurses and other care workers that has got us to this point. Together they have raised the profile of children's palliative care and this has resulted in a model of care which enables the children and families who use those services to live in dignity and comfort.

The independent reviewers have made various recommendations to improve and develop palliative care services and the commissioning and planning systems in which they operate. In the longer-term, they recommend that palliative care should become a sub-specialty in its own right and be a properly funded service.

Some of the recommendations are contingent on the comprehensive spending review, the results of which will not be known for some months, while others are for consideration by the voluntary sector, the royal colleges, regulators and other Government Departments such as the Department for Education and Skills. We are committed to working with these key partners to achieve real and lasting change.

The Government will consider carefully the recommendations and their implications for life-limited children and young people and for the health and social care system across the country. A detailed Government response will be formed alongside plans to take forward any recommendations coming out of HM Treasury and the Department for Education and Skills review of disabled children.

In the meantime, I am setting up a delivery group of key stakeholders to co-ordinate delivery on those recommendations that can be taken forward immediately, including the development of a national strategy for children's palliative care. I very much hope those invited will accept the offer to work with the Government to help achieve the step-change we all desire.

The report has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Westminster Tracer Gas Trials

The Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police (Mr. Tony McNulty): The Home Office would like to inform Parliament of a series of tracer gas trials that are due to commence in the Westminster area as part of the Home Office's chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) Science and Technology Programme.

The trials will improve our understanding of the movement of air-borne material in the urban environment, and will enable enhancements in public protection to be developed.

The work is part of the Home Office's commitment to improve security and counter-terrorism. It will improve the UK's ability to deal with the consequences of a CBRN release through an increased knowledge of the dispersion of material in the urban environment. This knowledge will assist in planning for CBRN response and in public and emergency responder safety.

The trials will involve the release of small amounts of non-toxic, odourless gases in the Marylebone area of Westminster starting from 20 May 2007. The trials will run for a four to six-week period during which time information leaflets will be available to the public. The tracer trials will pose no adverse effect on public health or on the daily routine in the Marylebone area of Westminster.

Similar tracer trials, led by the Department for Transport, were undertaken on 25 March and 1 April 2007 as part of a study looking at air movement within the London Underground environment.

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (John Reid): I have today published the Home Office's 2007 departmental report. Copies are available in the House Library and on the Home Office website. The report describes the work of the Home Office during 2006-07, in particular as reflected in its strategic objectives and key targets.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Report

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong): I have today laid before Parliament the "Cabinet Office Departmental Report 2007" (Cm 7108).

The Departmental Report describes the work of the Cabinet Office and includes a performance report for each of our Public Service Agreement targets. The report contains information on the achievements and successes of the Cabinet Office, outlines the priorities ahead and also includes a set of tables showing past outturn and future expenditure plans.

Copies are available in the Vote Office and in the Library for the reference of Members.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Malcolm Wicks): I will be attending the Competitiveness Council in Brussels on 21 and 22 May.

The first nine items on the agenda will be taken on 21 May.

The first four substantive items on the agenda will be chaired by Michael Glos, German Minister for Economics and Technology. The first item on the agenda will be Better Regulation. The presidency have tabled a progress report, but there is unlikely to be substantial debate on this issue.

The next item on the agenda is the proposed Regulation on Mutual Recognition. The presidency have tabled a progress report. We support the objective of this regulation, but we are keen to ensure that it does not restrict the ability of national authorities to take swift action to take dangerous or harmful products off the market.

This will be followed by a progress report on two measures relating to the New Approach (technical harmonisation). The UK supports the progress that has been made so far.

The next item on the agenda is EU Industry Policy. There will be a policy debate prior to adopting Council conclusions. We are supportive of the Commission's general stance on this issue and their emerging ideas on making the most of the competitive opportunities of tackling climate change.

The next two items on the agenda will be chaired by Brigitte Zypries, the German Minister for Justice. The next item on the agenda will be the EU Consumer Policy strategy. There will be a brief exchange of views on this issue.

The Consumer Credit Directive will be taken next. This directive is being put for political agreement. Positive steps have been made in this negotiation and we hope to reach an agreement that will bring benefits to EU consumers and lenders.

Eleven items will be taken under any other business:

(i) The Internal Market in Global Competition: Outcome of the Informal Ministerial meeting (information from the presidency.

(ii) Proposal for a directive on improving the effectiveness of review procedures concerning the award of public contracts. (Information from the presidency on the state of play)

(iii) Proposal for a directive on including aviation activities in the scheme for greenhouse gas emmission allowance trading within the Community (information from the presidency)

(iv) Proposal for a directive laying down rules on nominal quantities for pre-packed products (information from the presidency on the negotiations with the European Parliament)

(v) European Conference "Innovation and Market Access Through Standardisation" (information from the presidency)

(vi) 4th European Conference on Craft Industries (information from the presidency)

(vii) European Conference on Tourism (information from the presidency)

(viii) GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) Conference (information from the presidency)

(ix) Regulation on a Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling (information from the Commission)

(x) Impact of the proposal for a regulation on the law applicable to contractual obligation (ROME I) (requested by the Luxembourg delegation)

(xi) Information on Poland's proposal to organize the exhibition EXPO 2012 in Wroclaw, Poland (requested by the Polish delegation)

The European Space Council and discussion on the remaining agenda items will take place on 22 May.

The European Space Council will convene in the morning and will be chaired by German State Secretary Peter Hintze and Dutch Economics Minister Maria van der Hoeven. The main item on the agenda will be the adoption of a Resolution on the European Space Programme.

The remaining items on the agenda relate to research and will be chaired by Annette Schavan, the German Research Minister. The first issue to be dealt with in this section of the Council will be the Commission proposal for the European Institute for Technology. UK broadly supports the objectives of the proposal but there remain a number of outstanding issues including budget and governance.

Following on from this there will be a presentation from the Commission on the establishment of the ARTEMIS joint undertaking to implement a joint technology initiative in embedded computer systems. This will be followed by a presentation by the Commission on a regulation setting up the innovative medicines initiatives joint undertaking. The UK supports the establishment of joint technology initiatives in principle.

This will be followed by an exchange of views on the Commission's Green Paper "The European Research Area: New Perspectives". The UK supports the launch of a debate on the future of the European research area.

The next item on the agenda will be on research infrastructures in the European research area (ESFRI). There will be an exchange of views followed by the adoption of Council conclusions. The UK welcomes the ESFRI road map and supports the Council conclusions.

Two research points will be taken under any other business:

(i) Euro-Med Education and Research Ministers meeting (information from the presidency)

(ii) Commission proposal on article 169 Initiatives (information from the Commission).

TRANSPORT

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have today published my Department's Annual Report for 2007. Copies have been laid before Parliament and placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Report sets out the Department's activities and achievements over the last year. It also describes the Department's future expenditure plans for the period of the spending review 2004.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 30 May in Brussels. The Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, My hon. Friend, the Member for Stirling (Mrs. MsGuire), who has responsibility for disabled people, will be representing the UK. Health and Consumer Affairs issues are being taken on 31 May.

The Council will seek political agreement on guidelines for the Employment Policies of the member states. The UK supports this text.

There will be an endorsement of the Active Ageing opinion following a study of all member states policies in this area. We welcome this exchange of good practice underpinning a key Lisbon priority.

The Council will consider the adoption and a policy debate on the Commission's published Communication on a new health and safety strategy for 2007-2012, published on 21 February 2007. The Council will be invited to adopt a draft Resolution on the strategy. It generally welcomes the strategy, but reinforces calls on the Commission to simplify the legislative framework and reduce administrative burdens. The UK will support the Resolution.

The Council will aim to reach agreement on a partial general approach on both the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/04 on the co-ordination of social security schemes and the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the co-ordination of social security systems, and determining the content of Annexe XL. The UK is content, but will be making a statement for the Council minutes to make clear that our agreement to the provisions for healthcare is provisional and subject to future discussions on the proposal for health services.

The Council will receive an amendments package for Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community. This amendments package is non controversial.

The key agenda item will be the Presidency hopes to get political agreement on a directive for improving the portability of supplementary pension rights. Depending on the outcome of current negotiations, we are likely to support the Presidency proposal.

The Council will seek adoption of the draft conclusions on the importance of family-friendly policies in Europe and the establishment of an Alliance for Families. The UK supports this initiative on the

basis that the Alliance works with existing EU structures and does not duplicate work.

The Council will seek adoption of the conclusions pertaining to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The Presidency has chosen to work on the theme of "The Education and Training of Women" and has produced a report including a set of indicators. The UK supports the text.

The chair of the Social Protection Committee (SPC) will inform the Council on the progress on a communication on Social Services of General Interest. The SPC has discussed Member State responses to a consultation on whether significant problems exist between modernising social services and applying EU competition policy. There will be further EU level evaluation before any conclusions are drawn and any proposals brought forward.

Under Any Other Business, there will be reports of recent Presidency conferences.

Post Office Card Account (Successor)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry outlined a package of measures on 14 December 2006 to put the Post Office network on a stable footing, *Official Report*, columns 1026-28, volume 454.

In that statement he said:

The Government remained committed to allowing people to get their pension or benefit in cash at the post office if they chose to do so, and a range of accounts were already available at the post office that made that possible;

The current Post Office card account contract ended in March 2010 and that the Government had decided to continue with a new account after 2010. The new account would be available nationally and customers would be eligible for the account on the same basis as they are now;

That European Union procurement rules required the Government to tender competitively for this new product.

My Department has now started this process by submitting a notice which will appear in the Official Journal of the European Union. I will arrange for a copy of the notice to be placed in the Library. The key elements of the notice are:

The procurement will cover the provision of end to end services (e.g. card acquisition and maintenance, and payments of cash) for a simple card-based customer owned account;

The customers should be able to access their cash at an ATM and personal teller outlets (across a counter) located throughout the UK;

The size of the personal teller network is expected to be in the region of 10,000 outlets.

We will be joined in the procurement exercise by HM Revenue and Customs, the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency and the Northern Ireland Social Security Agency.

Details of the successful bidder(s) will be announced in due course with our aim being to sign contracts in the first part of 2008.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 18 May 2007

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

EU Education and Youth Council

The Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (Bill Rammell): I will attend the education section of the above Council on 25 May. The UK permanent representative will attend the Youth Council. The agenda items are as follows:

Education

Ministers will be asked to adopt conclusions on a framework of indicators and benchmarks for monitoring progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training. The conclusions will mandate the Commission to start work on developing some of the proposed indicators. The Commission will also present information on the proposed European survey on language competences.

There will be an exchange of views on evidence-based policy-making in the field of education. Ministers will address what action should be taken to further develop and use educational research, and how such action can be supported at EU level.

Youth

Ministers will be asked to adopt a resolution on creating equal opportunities for all young people. The resolution concerns ensuring that all young people have access to services and opportunities on an equal basis, without suffering discrimination.

Ministers will exchange views and be asked to adopt a conclusion on future European co-operation in the field of youth policy. The conclusions outline how future co-operation may go forward after the present round ends in 2009. They envisage further development of European co-operation in youth policy and improved mainstreaming of youth issues with related policy fields.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Serious Organised Crime Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): The annual report of the Serious Organised Crime Agency for 2006-07 is being published and laid before Parliament today. As required by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 the report includes an assessment of the extent to which the annual plan for 2006-07 has been carried out.

Copies of the report are available in the Library.

Damilola Taylor

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): I am placing in the House Library today a copy of the report of the independent review conducted by Alan Rawley QC and Professor Brian Caddy into work carried out by the Forensic Science Service Ltd. (FSS) in connection with the investigation into the death of Damilola Taylor in November 2000. During the course of two trials involving two brothers who were found guilty of Damilola's manslaughter, evidence presented by the prosecution suggested that there were serious quality failures in the examination by the FSS of clothing sent to them as part of the original investigation.

The review has concluded that there were no systemic failures in the procedures carried out by the FSS at the time, but that there were human errors made by some individual scientists which is extremely regrettable. Their report makes a number of recommendations and I have asked the chair of the FSS to provide me with a considered response to those recommendations concerning the FSS. I will then be able to give full consideration to all the report's recommendations.

I would wish to thank Mr. Rawley and Professor Caddy for their very thorough review of the FSS handling of some of the evidence in this case. I would also like to express my sincere apologies to Damilola Taylor's family and acknowledge the further distress this has undoubtedly caused them.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 21 May 2007

TREASURY

Services Review (Disabled Children)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): Budget 2006 announced that the second Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) would be informed by a series of policy reviews. One of the reviews announced at the Budget was a joint HM Treasury and Department for Education and Skills policy review of children and young people. This included a sub-review on how services can provide greater support to families with disabled children to improve their life chances.

The Government are today publishing the final report of the disabled children review, to inform and influence the CSR. In line with the Government's report, "Improving the life chances of disabled people", the review has worked towards the best ways of creating equality for all disabled children. Improving their educational, social and emotional development, and their opportunities for independent living, choice and control, is a key part of this process.

The final report, published today, sets out the further action that needs to be taken to improve outcomes and equality of opportunity for disabled children and their families. It aims to facilitate, better support, and improve outcomes for disabled children in the following areas:

empowering disabled children, young people and their families—offering parents and their disabled children choice and the power to take decisions about their own care and influence local priorities, to improve service quality and responsiveness;

promoting more responsive services and timely support—prioritising disabled children at a local and national level, with early interventions and coordinated and timely support, to bring up standards of provision across the country, make it easier for families to access holistic support, and prevent conditions deteriorating.

improving service quality and capacity—boosting provision of services which are vital for improving outcomes for disabled children and their families. The Review focuses mainly on specialist services such as short breaks and equipment, but also tackles barriers to accessing universal services such as healthcare.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Astute Class Submarines

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I am pleased to announce today that the MOD has placed an order with BAE Systems to commence work on the build of the fourth submarine in the Astute Class, which will be known as Audacious.

The Astute class is the next generation of nuclear powered attack submarines. The First of Class, Astute, is on schedule to be launched on 8 June 2007, and is due to enter service in 2009.

The Astute Class will be the largest, most capable and widely deployable attack submarines that the Royal Navy has ever operated, and will replace the Swiftsure and Trafalgar Class, which have been in-service since the 1970s and 1980s respectively. The Astute Class will have improved communications systems to support joint operations and an enhanced ability to operate in shallower littoral environments. BAES (Submarine Solutions) is also responsible for the design and build of the first three boats (Astute, Ambush and Artful).

Today's announcement demonstrates our commitment to the attack submarine programme, as set out in the Defence Industrial Strategy. It also demonstrates our commitment to the Royal Navy. These submarines are needed to fulfil duties around the globe. It demonstrates the best of British technology and our determination to develop and transform the UK submarine industry over the coming years.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Performance Targets

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I have set the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) the following Performance Targets for 2007-08.

Service Delivery

Customer Satisfaction

1. To achieve a minimum of 90 per cent. of project milestones in commissioned projects which support DEFRA's strategic objectives and intermediate outcomes.

2. To achieve a mean score of 4.5 on a scale of 0 to 5 for the assessment of customer satisfaction using the agreed methodology.

Managing the Agency Effectively

3. To recover the full economic costs of the Agency's services from Government Departments, Agencies and External Customers.

4. To deliver the efficiency targets set out in the Business Plan.

5. To deliver e-Government and commercially exploit research outputs in ways that do not prejudice moves to new agency by setting up potential conflicts of interest.

Securing Sustainability

6. To work with Defra's Delivery Relationship Team and heads of other potential constituent organisations, providing sufficient CSL resource, to develop and get agreed by Ministers proposals for a new Regulatory Science Agency that would commence operations by 1 April 2009. Subsequently, to provide strong leadership in implementing the preferred option.

Science Quality

7. To formulate a Science Audit Implementation Plan and deliver key outcomes (including a Communication Strategy; a coordinated approach to international science collaboration; increasing staff involvement in scientific publications).

Further details are given in the CSL Business Plan for 2007-08 copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I have set the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) the following Performance Targets for 2007-08.

Customers

Provide a high standard of services to the satisfaction of customers

Customer Satisfaction Survey overall score to exceed 82 per cent.

Science

Fulfil commitments on time, within budget and to agreed standards of quality

Delivery of R and D milestones which support Defra's Strategic Objectives and Intermediate Outcomes to exceed 90 per cent. score

Enhance scientific capability and reputation

Achieve high standard of excellence based on indicators of scientific and technical quality with an overall score to exceed 75 per cent.

Organisational Development

Recover the full cost of services, invest for the future and deliver the transformation plan

The target for annual surplus set under the Laboratory Strategy Programme—£0.2 million

Operate with simple, reliable and effective processes

Exceed agreed 2.5 per cent. Gershon Efficiency Plan savings

People

Respect and help the agency's people to develop

Annual Staff Survey satisfaction score to exceed 63 per cent.

Further details are given in the Cefas Business Plan 2007-08, a copy of which has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Agriculture Development Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Barry Gardiner): The Agriculture Development scheme (ADS) is an Exchequer-funded, competitive scheme which has operated in its present form since 2003 to help farmers and other bodies within the food chain to improve their competitiveness through better marketing. Details of the projects that have been supported under ADS may be found on DEFRA's website. The projects that have been supported have, in all cases, been ones that were originally proposed by bodies within the industry itself. The priorities of the scheme have been the encouragement of co-operation and collaboration benefiting primary producers, giving backing to benchmarking and the spread of best practice, promotion and development of assurance schemes, and opening up new markets.

Independent evaluations that have been carried out of the effectiveness of ADS have shown that the projects which it has supported have been highly successful in meeting these objectives, and that the scheme as a whole has been responsible for significantly improving the degree of market orientation shown by the food chain generally. I should like to pay tribute to the energy and commitment of those who have been responsible for delivering these projects, and for achieving these results.

The independent evaluations that I have referred to also made reference to the need to keep the scheme priorities under review, and have pointed out the need for support to be given to projects aimed at achieving specific environmental and sustainability criteria. Accordingly, I have decided that the time has come to reassess the scheme priorities.

After bids have been received for the next ADS panel that will be held later this year, the scheme in its present form will be closed to new applications. Projects currently being supported under ADS will be unaffected. This decision will be publicised via the media and DEFRA's website, and also communicated in writing to agricultural organisations, food chain bodies, and other interested parties. Potential applicants for ADS funding will be given notice of the date by which their bids must be received in order to be considered by the adjudication panel later this year.

It should be noted that after the new 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme for England has been approved by the European Commission, funding may be available under Axis 1 of that programme for projects concerned with the same kinds of priorities as have applied since 2003 under ADS. That funding will be managed by Regional Development Agencies, in line with the regional priorities which each of those Agencies set out in their Axis 1 implementation plans.

A further announcement will be made in due course about successor arrangements for ADS.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary Sir John Grant (UK Permanent Representative to the EU) and I represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Brussels. The Minister of State for defence equipment and support, Lord Drayson, attended the Defence Ministers' discussions on 14 May.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

Foreign Ministers

General Affairs

Preparation of the European Council on 21 /22 June

The Council took note of the Presidency's draft annotated agenda for the European Council on 21/22 June. This covers the Constitutional Treaty. Justice and Home Affairs and Economic and Social issues, including strengthening police cooperation and climate change. The European Council is also likely to discuss foreign policy issues, such as the European Neighbourhood Policy and Central Asia.

External Relations

Black Sea Region

The Council discussed the Black Sea region on the basis of a Commission Communication. The initiative, which the Government broadly support, gives an overview of EU cooperation with the region, outlines

the main challenges and proposes strengthening the EU's cooperation with regional organisations.

The Council adopted Conclusions welcoming the Commission's Communication while underlining the importance of continued cooperation with the Black Sea region. The Council invited the Commission to carry out a review of the initiative in the first half of 2008.

Preparation of the EU-Russia Summit

The Council discussed EU-Russia relations in advance of the Summit in Samara on 18 May. Discussion at the Summit is expected to cover energy, climate change, human rights and the investment climate as well as topical regional and international issues.

Uzbekistan

The Presidency briefed the Council on the EU's human rights dialogue with Uzbekistan on 8 and 9 May. There was broad support in the Council, including from the Government, for the EU to maintain pressure on Uzbekistan to implement its international human rights obligations.

The Council agreed a common position extending the EU's visa ban for a further six months against eight Uzbek officials directly involved in the events at Andizhan in May 2005.

The Council adopted Conclusions expressing its continued concern about the human rights situation in Uzbekistan and calling on the Uzbek authorities to release detained human rights defenders. The Conclusions welcomed the EU's first round of talks with Uzbekistan on 8 and 9 May and reiterated the EU's readiness to pursue a regular dialogue with Uzbekistan on human rights issues. The Government support these talks as a means of encouraging Uzbekistan to make concrete progress on human rights concerns.

Sudan

The Council discussed the security situation in Darfur and agreed to provide further funding of €40 million for the African Union Mission in Sudan from the Africa Peace Facility. In response to a call from External Relations Commissioner, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, on Member States to provide additional financial support to the African Union Mission, the Netherlands announced it would be contributing a further €10 million in funding.

Somalia

The Presidency briefed the Council on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia and reaffirmed the EU's support for the African Union Mission in Somalia.

The Council adopted Conclusions expressing continued concern about the situation in Somalia and reiterating the obligation of all parties to comply with international humanitarian law. The Conclusions also welcome the talks between the Transitional Federal Government, Ethiopia and the Hawiya leadership committee while recalling the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1744 to address the political, security and humanitarian challenges faced in Somalia.

Iraq

The Presidency briefed the Council on the Iraq Neighbours Conference and the launch of the International Compact in Sharm el-Sheikh on 3-4 May.

The Council adopted Conclusions welcoming the conferences in Sharm el-Sheikh and commending the Iraqi Government for the ambitious commitments in the "International Compact with Iraq" to promote political, security, economic and social reforms. These will be key in developing cooperation between Iraq and its international partners.

Middle East Peace Process

The Council discussed the Middle East Peace Process including the Commission's work on capacity-building support and coordination of assistance to the Palestinians, which the Government strongly supports.

Ministers exchanged views with representatives from the Arab League in the margins of the Council on the Arab Peace Initiative. The Council welcomed the initiative as a contribution to moving the peace process forward and expressed readiness to build on increasing Arab involvement.

Western Balkans

The Council discussed the situation in Serbia following an agreement on the formation of a new government.

The Presidency reiterated the EU's position as set out in the February Council Conclusions: the restart of Stabilisation and Association Agreement talks with Serbia is conditional upon concrete action by a new Serb government on cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The Government fully support this position.

The Council adopted Conclusions welcoming the results of the Stability Pact's Regional Table meeting and of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Ministerial and Summit meetings, held in Zagreb on 10 and 11 May.

International Moratorium on the Death Penalty

The Council discussed EU action on a global moratorium and eventual abolition of the death penalty. The Council is expected to return to this issue in June.

Iran

The Council discussed relations with Iran following a meeting on 25 April between High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, and Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

Libya

External Relations Commissioner, Benita Ferrero Waldner, briefed the Council on discussions with Libya on the case of the Bulgarian medics.

Joint Session of Foreign Ministers and Defence Ministers

European Security and Defence Policy Mission in Afghanistan

The Council discussed the future ESDP mission to Afghanistan. The Government welcome progress towards launching the mission, which will make a significant contribution to stability and development in Afghanistan.

Defence Ministers

Operations

Military aspects of EU/UN Cooperation

The Presidency briefed the Council on the results of the EU-UN seminar in Berlin in March. The Council adopted Conclusions expressing the EU's commitment to further strengthening cooperation with the UN.

Lessons learned from EUFOR RD Congo

The Council discussed the lessons learned from EUFOR RD Congo, the EU military mission which provided support to the UN during the 2006 election period in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Government underlined that the national Operational Headquarters model used by the EU worked, with the operation being run from the German Operational Headquarters in Potsdam, and made it clear that while there was scope for improvement in the ability of the EU Military Staff to undertake strategic level planning, this should be on the basis of an analysis of current resources.

The Council adopted Conclusions called on the High Representative for the Common and Foreign Security Policy, Javier Solana, to address the shortcomings in the EU Military Staffs ability to conduct planning at the strategic level for EU-led operations and to submit a report with recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Council at its meeting in November 2007.

Western Balkans

The Council discussed planning for the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) mission to Kosovo. The Government emphasised the importance of appropriate technical agreements between the ESDP mission and the NATO mission in Kosovo. The Council also reviewed the progress in implementing the first phase of the draw-down of EU forces in Bosnia.

African Union Mission in Sudan (Sudan/Darfur)

The Council discussed EU support in Sudan/Darfur. The Government of Sudan have accepted the second phase of the UN support for the African Union peacekeeping force but they have yet to accept the third phase, a hybrid African Union/UN force. The Government encouraged partners to maintain pressure on President Bashir to accept the deployment of UN forces, and to continue to provide financial support to the African Union mission.

The Council adopted Conclusions reaffirming support for the African Union mission in Sudan while welcoming the ongoing efforts of the African Union and the UN.

Military Capabilities

The Presidency, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, and General Bentegeat Chairman of the EU Military Committee, briefed the Council on progress on Military Capabilities. On the Headline Goal process to strengthen military capabilities, the Government supported the work being conducted on the progress catalogue, which should identify both shortfalls and any specific areas where there was an excess of military capabilities declared to the EU.

The Government insisted that work on a possible revision of the EU Military Rapid Response Concept, based on a Tri-Presidency (Germany, Portugal Slovenia) Food for Thought paper, should respect previous assurances that there would be no move to extend the level of ambition of the European Security and Defence Policy, nor to create new standing forces.

The Council welcomed progress in the development of the Capability Development Plan, and noted the Single Progress Report on military capabilities.

European Defence Agency

The Council took note of the report submitted by the Head of the Agency on its activities. Conclusions were adopted on Security Sector Reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo, on African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, on Human Rights and Gender, on training activities relevant to ESDP, on upcoming civilian missions and on exercises.

Development Ministers

Aid for Trade and Economic Partnership Agreements

The Council adopted Conclusions underlining support for the Commission's ongoing negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements. The Conclusions, which are broadly in line with the Government's position paper, maintained support for the Commission's more flexible approach towards market opening for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and maintained Duty and Quota Free access for all ACP products except for rice and sugar which are subject to transitional periods. The Council agreed that the Commission would further evaluate the impact that Duty and Quota free access would have, on the EU's banana producers, reverting to the Council if necessary. The Government are content that the commitment made to evaluate the impact of the proposal on banana producers involved an explicit commitment not to prejudge the outcome of the negotiations and would further strengthen the evidence base for negotiations.

Complementarity and Division of Labour

The Council adopted Conclusions on a voluntary Code of Conduct on Complementarity and Division of Labour which will guide the policy and actions of Member States and the Commission, to help improve aid effectiveness. The Presidency emphasised the voluntary and flexible nature of the code, stressing the importance of working closely with developing country governments to ensure implementation was tailored specifically to individual country needs. There was strong agreement among Member States on the importance of moving forward with implementation in time for the High Level Forum in Accra, Ghana in 2008.

Africa and ACP-EU Cooperation

The Presidency briefed the Council on preparations for the Joint EU-Africa Strategy, outlining their confidence that the Strategy would be adopted at the Lisbon Summit in the latter half of 2007. The Council adopted Conclusions for a new EU-Africa Energy Partnership to be adopted at: the EU-Africa Summit in December 2007. The Council approved the agenda and Council positions for the EC-ACP Council of Ministers Meeting on 25 May. The Commission

highlighted the importance of timely ratification by Member States of both the revised Cotonou Agreement and the EOF 10 Internal Agreement.

Forest Management in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Under AOB, Belgium briefed the Council on forest management in the DRC, emphasising the importance of this issue both for climate change and poverty reduction and the role that the international community might play in supporting sustainable forest management.

Implementation of the Monterrey Commitments

The Council adopted Conclusions following a review of the implementation of commitments on Financing for Development (Monterrey). Ministers discussed the importance of taking forward the implementation of the commitments with the Commission stressing the value of preparing national timetables to achieve Official development assistance (ODA) targets. A number of Member States referred to new efforts in increasing aid volumes.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 22 May 2007

TREASURY

Annual European Community Finances White Paper

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): I am today laying before Parliament, the annual European Community Finances White Paper "Statement on the 2007 EC Budget and measures to combat fraud and financial mismanagement" (Cm 7090). This White Paper is the 27th in the series. It gives details of revenue and expenditure in the 2007 EC Budget and covers recent developments in EC financial management and measures to counter fraud against the EC Budget. It also includes information on the upcoming review of the EC Budget and recent measures taken to improve the management and control of the EC Budget, including the initiative the Government announced in November 2006.

Tax Credits

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The tax credit system has delivered three key achievements: it has improved incentives to work, reduced the tax burden on low to middle income families and helped to dramatically reduce child poverty. The National Statistics published on 22 May show that the total number of families benefiting from tax credits rose to 5.94 million in 2005-06. These statistics contain a wide range of other information about tax credits, and show that:

339,000 families benefited from the childcare element of Working Tax Credit (an 11 per cent. increase in the number benefiting in 2004-05).

89,000 families benefited from the disabled worker element (a 13 per cent. increase compared to 2004-05).

As a proportion of gross spending, end year adjustments leading to an overpayment have halved since the introduction of new tax credits to just ten per cent.

In line with expectations, end of year adjustments leading to an overpayment have fallen by a further £100 million since 2004-05, building on the significant progress made between 2003-04 and 2004-05 when overpayments fell by a fifth.

Tax credits today provide support to 20 million people including 6 million families and 10 million children. Take-up of tax credits is a significant success. In 2004-05 take-up of the Child Tax Credit rose from 79 per cent. to 82 per cent., with over 90 per cent of the money available being claimed. Take-up among those on incomes below £10,000 is 97 per cent; and take-up among lone parents is 93 per cent. This is higher than for any previous system of income-related financial support for in-work families.

Tax credits play a major role in moving people into work and helping people move up the employment ladder, ensuring that work pays over welfare. Tax credits and economic stability have helped to increase the number of people in work by over 2.5 million since spring 1997.

As a result of the Government's reforms to the tax and benefit system since 1997, from April 2007, in real terms:

families with children are, on average, £1,550 a year better off, while those in the poorest fifth will be, on average, £3,450 per year better off; and

a single-earner family on half average male earnings with two children is £3,900 a year better off.

The tax credit system has also played a key role in tackling child poverty. Since 1998-99, 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty, compared to a doubling of child poverty in the previous 20 years.

Tax credits are designed to tailor support to families' specific circumstances, and to respond to their changing needs. Household incomes and circumstances that can, of course, change during the course of the year. Payments are therefore subject to adjustment during the course of the year and, if necessary, at the end of the year once these changes are known. The only way to avoid these end-year adjustments would be to have a system where payments were fixed, based on past information. This would mean that families could not benefit from this flexibility to give extra support when they need it most. Statistics published today show that between 2004-05 and 2005-06 720,000 families experienced a fall in their income, and benefited from extra support through tax credits.

Building on the significant progress made in 2004-05 when overpayments fell by a fifth, National Statistics show that end-year adjustments leading to an overpayment fell by a further £100 million in 2005-06. The figures for end-year adjustments do not show the impact of measures announced at the time of the 2005 Pre-Budget Report. Once these come fully into effect the level of end-year adjustments are expected to fall by a further third in future years.

HMRC is making good progress in implementing this package of measures, and this is already making a significant improvement to the way in which the tax credit system operates and to the outcomes for families:

the amount by which ongoing tax credit payments can be reduced in order to recover an in-year overpayment has been restricted. This gives greater certainty of award for claimants, and reduces the effect of reported changes on continuing payments.

the income disregard has been successfully increased to £25,000. This has ensured that almost all families with increasing incomes will not have their tax credit entitlement reduced in the first year of the increase, further boosting work incentives and reducing overpayments. Analysis based on data from the first two years of the system's operation indicates that about 600,000 families per year will benefit from the increase in the disregard, and two-thirds of those beneficiaries will be in the bottom 30 per cent of the income distribution.

the renewal period has been successfully reduced to five months. As a result, 1.4 million more claimants had their 2005-06 awards finalised and were off provisional payments by 31 August 2006 than by this point in the previous year. As a result of this success, in the 2006 Pre-Budget Report the Government announced that in 2007 the renewal period will be further shortened to four months. This will further reduce the time over which claimants are paid on the basis of information rolled forward from the previous tax year, which is often out of date.

new reporting arrangements have been introduced to increase the number of changes in circumstances that are reported to HMRC and reduce the time taken to report these changes. This has shortened the time when people are potentially paid too much (or too little), and was supported by an advertising campaign *"when life changes"*. HMRC have also sent a mailshot to claimants to remind them of the new reporting requirements and initial feedback suggests that tax credit claimants are aware of the need to report changes of circumstances promptly to HMRC.

HMRC has started to adjust future payments when an estimate of lower current year income is reported but not make a one-off payment for the earlier part of the year. When the award is finalised after the year end, any necessary adjustments to payments will be made. This will tackle the problems associated with families overestimating falls in income.

ahead of the renewals exercise, earlier this year HMRC also wrote to around 2 million low-income claimants to encourage them to provide an up-to-date estimate of income so that their provisional payments for 2007-08 can be more accurately set.

In addition to these measures, Budget 2007 announced a four-week run-on in entitlement to Working Tax Credit from the day a claimant ceases to work over 16 hours. This will reduce the number and value of overpayments occurring when people are late in reporting that they are no longer entitled to Working Tax Credit.

Accuracy in processing and calculating awards rose from 78.6 per cent. in 2003-04 to 97.7 per cent. in 2005-06. This improved performance of the tax credits system has meant that fewer overpayments are being caused by IT or administrative error.

The service received by tax credit customers has also been improved. Award notices and guidance have been improved and the "reasonable belief" test HMRC uses to decide whether to write off an overpayment has been clarified. HMRC has also improved its processes for dealing with disputed overpayments, and claimants can now expect disputed overpayments to be dealt with within four weeks.

Since the introduction of tax credits HMRC has had processes in place to deal with hardship and where appropriate can provide additional payments or collect money owed over a longer time or, in exceptional circumstances, write-off an overpayment.

End-year adjustments would be a feature of any flexible system that could respond across the year to families' circumstances as they change. Eliminating the need for adjustments would require a move to a fixed and less responsive system.

DEFENCE

The Future of ABRO and DARA

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I am announcing today, subject to trades union consultation and appropriate Parliamentary consent, the creation of a new defence support group by merging together ABRO, retained DARA business units and certain other defence support facilities. This new group, operating as a trading fund, will begin formal trading by April 2008 and will focus solely on the delivery of the Defence Industrial and Technology Strategies by being a flexible, responsive, operationally excellent organisation that provides a cost competitive in-house maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade capability in support of the Armed Forces, operating where appropriate in partnership with industry.

DARA is undergoing a major transformation programme: the Fast Jet and Engines businesses closed in March 2007; the Rotary Wing and Components businesses are currently going through a sale process; and we have already announced the retention of the electronics business at Sealand. The VC10 business unit at St Athan has also been subject to a market testing exercise. However, as it is now apparent that sale is unlikely to offer best value for defence, the sale of the VC10 business unit will not now proceed. By retaining ownership, MOD will better manage the interface between the VC10 business and the Defence Training Review, both of which are based at St Athan in South Wales. A decision will be taken shortly on whether the best value for defence can be secured by transferring; the Rotary and Components businesses outside the MOD. If not, these business units will also form part of the new defence support organisation.

Commitment from the MOD to sustain essential levels of capability and capacity will provide the new defence support group with greater clarity and allow it to implement a programme of continuous improvement. At the same time, the new organisation will look to consolidate and build on ABRO's and DARA's existing defence industry relationships and partnerships, by entering into agreements on future equipment programmes. These will ensure MOD retains the Intellectual Property and design skills required to maintain operational sovereignty in key areas as set out in the Defence Industrial and Technology Strategies.

This announcement draws both organisations more closely into delivering key MOD strategies and supporting the Armed Forces. As the plans for the new organisation develop during the course of 2007, we are committed to consulting closely with staff and trades unions.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I represented the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels.

The Council once again failed to reach agreement on measures to establish a recovery plan for the European eel, due to inconclusive discussions and intransigence by some Member States. It is expected that decisions will be taken at the next meeting of the Council in June.

The Council was not able to reach agreement on implementation of a recovery plan and new quota allocation for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. This is despite significant pressure from myself, other member states and the Commission. In the end the Presidency responded to calls from France and Italy, who are the main stakeholders in the fishery, to delay. Although the result was disappointing, the Commission did declare that it would close the

fishery once provisional quotas were exhausted. It is expected that decisions will be taken at the next meeting of the Council in June.

The Council held a policy debate base on a Presidency questionnaire on the Commission's Report on cross compliance. Member States expressed support for a number of measures proposed by the Commission to simplify and improve the system of cross-compliance in the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Presidency updated Council on the state of the negotiations on a proposal amending the common organisation of the market in cereals, by the abolition of maize intervention.

The Council took note of a presentation by Agriculture Commissioner on new proposals to amend the sugar restructuring fund introduced as part of the 2005 sugar reforms.

The Council reached political agreement by qualified majority on a Presidency compromise proposal, laying down for the first time rules governing the conditions under which meat chickens are kept. I voted in favour of the compromise text which puts in place a package of new measures including detailed requirements for holdings where meat chickens are kept, the introduction of a maximum stocking density limit, data collection and scientific monitoring of impacts on chicken welfare, training for the industry and a possible new welfare labelling regime following a report from the European Commission. The Directive will come into force in 2010.

The Council unanimously adopted conclusions on the outcome of a recent conference on "Animal welfare -Improving by labelling". The Council also unanimously adopted conclusions on better regulation in the plant varieties and seeds sectors.

A number of issues, as follows, were raised under any other business:

Spain supported by some Member States expressed concern about the exclusion of banana as a sensitive product in the draft Council conclusions concerning the market access to the EU market for the African Caribbean Pacific countries (ACP) products.

The Council took note of an update by the Commission on Avian Influenza and agreed that the item should be withdrawn from the agenda of future Council sessions, unless there were significant issues to report.

The Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection gave an update on the EC-Russian Federation veterinary and phytosanitary agreement negotiations. He also reported that Russia had also banned meat from various EU establishments due to evidence of salmonella and appealed to Member States to ensure they are fully applying the Memorandum of Understanding with Russia, so as to avoid any further problems.

The Agriculture Commissioner updated Council on the state of play in the WTO negotiations.

HEALTH

Blood Products (Safety)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): The Government have today sent a copy of the Department's review of all officially held papers for the period 1970-1985, including those returned to the Department from a firm of private solicitors, on blood products contaminated with Hepatitis C to Lord Archer of Sandwell's non-governmental independent inquiry and to other interested parties.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

Workforce Planning

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton): The Government have today laid before Parliament their response to the Health Select Committee Report on Workforce Planning (Cm 7085).

The Government are responding to the conclusions and recommendations raised by the Committee covering issues such as ensuring workforce planning is a priority, the importance of strategic health authorities leading the process locally, the need for a national perspective from the Department and the Committee's concerns about the effects of the recent growth in National Health Service workforce capacity on the NHS financial position.

Copies of the response have been placed in the Library.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Bichard Inquiry

The Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police (Mr. Tony McNulty): Copies of the Government's fourth progress report on implementing the recommendations of Sir Michael Bichard's Inquiry into events surrounding the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses today. Our last report was made in May 2006 and there have been many positive developments since that date. Some 21 of Sir Michael's 31 recommendations have now been substantially delivered and we continue to press ahead with the more technically complex issues which remain outstanding.

Since we initiated work to implement the Recommendations from the Inquiry, the ambitious and far reaching programme of work has already delivered major improvements to the sharing of information to protect children and vulnerable adults. And it is increasingly apparent that our agenda is now just one part of a much bigger framework covering the use of information to support public protection. So the Government are determined, as they were from day one, to implement the necessary improvements from this crucial work, which demands continuing focus and priority. This latest update clearly reinforces the Government's ongoing commitment to full delivery.

A key objective from the outset has been the delivery of the Impact Programme and we remain committed to delivering the significant improvements which will meet Recommendations 1 and 4. We have achieved much already, as previously reported, and since the delivery of the first, incremental achievements, the ongoing

practical benefits to the Police Service have become clear to see. Impact Nominal Index (INI) continues to prove itself to be an invaluable tool in the Police's armoury against those who would seek to do harm to the vulnerable, for example, with over 140,000 searches conducted on the system by the end of March and decisions in some 670 child protection cases referred to the police being changed as a result. But there is still some way to go to realise the ultimate goals of the Programme. After a review of options in consultation with the main stakeholders, we have decided not to deploy the CRISP application as an interim solution. Our primary focus and efforts are now delivery of the new Police National Database, which will meet our pledge of a national police intelligence sharing capability. This work is now being led and managed by the Police Service itself, through the new National Policing Improvement Agency with its clear focus on policing needs, and is forming the central strand of its comprehensive and practical strategy for matching information systems and technology to policing priorities. The Agency is also overseeing the ongoing implementation by Police Forces of the statutory Code of Practice on police information management, which came into force in 2005. This, together with the accompanying operational guidance, will ensure improved national standards are properly embedded in day to day policing.

The other major focus of our work has been the implementation of the new Vetting and Barring Scheme, which will cover those seeking to work with children and replace the existing arrangements. Following Royal Assent for the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, under which the Scheme is established, work has been stepped up to deliver what represents a world-leading and highly innovative system for controlling access to children and vulnerable adults.

Cabinet colleagues at DfES and DH continue to work closely on this important initiative and we look forward to the launch of the Independent Barring Board in 2008, which will work alongside the Criminal Records Bureau and lead the discretionary decision-making process for the more difficult cases.

Elsewhere, progress is being made although in some areas technical issues have meant that timetables have had to be revised. The Home Secretary reported last May that we hoped to have achieved direct updating of Courts' resulting to the Police National Computer by the end of 2008. Whilst my determination—and that of Ministerial colleagues at the Ministry of Justice—to achieve this remains undiminished, it has been necessary to drive forward this complex change in step with the wider IT-enabled reforms to the criminal justice system the Ministry of Justice is delivering and so we plan to achieve delivery of Recommendation 7 by the end of the 2008-09 financial year. In the meantime, Police Forces' performance in updating PNC under the current arrangements remains a broadly sound and improving picture, under the close scrutiny of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

We continue to see increasing take-up of the voluntary training for head teachers and school governors, which focuses on the critical importance of being aware of safeguarding issues when recruiting staff. And we have now developed and rolled out new initiatives to extend the training more widely, in schools and other local authority sectors.

While we continue to make progress in implementing the Recommendations, it is important to note this work is about more than simply delivering new frameworks and arrangements, such as best practice guidance. We are seeking to address cultural or organisational obstacles through IT-enabled business change, such as new information sharing capabilities. We have already achieved real improvements but must be ever vigilant about the risks to the vulnerable members of society.

Furthermore, we must join up systems effectively between the various jurisdictions within the UK and internationally. The difficulties around the notifications of UK citizens convicted in Europe, which came to light earlier this year and which we have been addressing, were a strong reminder that we must be constantly vigilant to ensure systems, both local and national/ international, are all working as they should. Within government and in the key agencies delivering public services, work to safeguard the vulnerable members of the community must be a core priority.

The Bichard work has been the single largest contributor to that cultural change and I am pleased to commend the progress to this House.

Unrecorded Crimes Committed by UK Citizens Abroad

The Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police (Mr. Tony McNulty): Further to my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's statement to Parliament on 16 January, I would like to provide an update to the House on the work that has been undertaken to deal with the issue of overseas convictions of UK citizens.

Members will recall that, during a Home Affairs Select Committee meeting on 9 January, it came to light that there was a backlog of files containing information about such convictions.

It was clear that that the existing systems were inadequate and the Home Secretary asked Sir David Normington to initiate an immediate inquiry to find out how the backlog arose and why it was not dealt with sooner. The inquiry was undertaken by Dusty Amroliwala and reported on 2 March. Sir David has acknowledged that there are lessons to be learned from the report in a number of key areas including working practices, risk management and leadership. The Home Office already has a comprehensive programme of reform in place and these lessons are being incorporated in that reform agenda.

In his statement to Parliament on 10 January, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary said that we hoped to have dealt with the backlog within three months. I am pleased to be able to report that it was fully processed onto the Police National Computer (PNC) before the end of April. Copies of a report on the process and outcome have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses today.

As well as entering the offenders in the backlog onto the PNC, a range of checks and actions has been taken to help ensure the protection of the public. These include checks via the Criminal Records Bureau and with the Prison and Probation Services. This has been a

UK-wide initiative and similar public protection processes have been carried out in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Full details are in the progress report.

We are very grateful to the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Criminal Records Bureau and the other organisations involved for all the support and assistance they have provided in processing the backlog and facilitating the public protection work.

Despite the positive progress we have made in this immediate area, we remain concerned about the complexity of the connected issues we face across Government and beyond. This is not helped by the differences in systems, procedures and criteria for recording information about criminality and using it for public protection purposes, both within this country and beyond the UK. The Home Secretary has therefore asked Sir Ian Magee to undertake a review, comprising two distinct parts. The first will focus on scoping the problems, assessing what deficiencies there are and where they lie. The second part will concentrate on conclusions and recommendations for improving the recording and sharing of criminality data, with a firm grounding in what is realistic and achievable.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Policing Board

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): I am announcing the membership of the reconstituted Northern Ireland Policing Board to take effect from today. The cross-community Board is one of the great successes flowing from the Belfast Agreement. I would like to pay tribute to all former Board members for the considerable contribution they have made to policing in Northern Ireland and the crucial role they have played in ensuring that the PSNI is effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of the community.

The new membership of the Board is as follows:

Tom Buchanan MLA,
The Right Hon. Jeffrey Donaldson MP, MLA,
David Simpson MP, MLA,
Peter Weir MLA,
Leslie Cree MLA,
Basil McCrea MLA,
Martina Anderson MLA,
Alex Maskey MLA,
Daithi McKay MLA,
Dolores Kelly MLA,
Professor Sir Desmond Rea,
Barry Gilligan,
Rosaleen Moore,
Suneil Sharma,
Brian Rea MBE JP,
Trevor Ringland,
David Rose,
Gearoid OhEara
Mary McKee.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Alexander Litvinenko

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien): My right hon. Friend the Attorney General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"Today the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has decided, after applying the evidential and public interest tests set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors, to prosecute Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy, a Russian citizen, for the murder of Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko. The CPS decision was reached after they had consulted the Attorney-General, which is the usual practice in serious and complex cases. The CPS have concluded that there is sufficient evidence to prosecute Mr Lugovoy for murder and it is in the public interest to do so."

It is alleged that in London on or about 1 November 2006, Mr Lugovoy poisoned Mr Litvinenko by administering a lethal dose of Polonium 210, a radioactive material. Mr Litvinenko died on 23 November 2006 in a London hospital of an acute radiation injury.

The CPS will now take immediate steps to seek the extradition of Mr Lugovoy from Russia to the United Kingdom so that he can be charged and prosecuted for murder in this country.

The Attorney-General agrees with the CPS decision."

TRANSPORT

East Midlands Regional Planning Assessment (Railways)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department for Transport has today published the East Midlands Regional Planning Assessment for the railway (RPA), the latest in the series of 11 RPAs covering England and Wales.

Copies of the document have been placed in both Libraries of the House and can also be downloaded from the Department's website http://www.dft.gov.uk.

The East Midlands RPA covers the entire East Midlands region including Derby, Leicester and Nottingham Cities, Rutland, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire.

RPAs provide the link between regional spatial planning (including preparation of regional transport strategies) and planning for the railway by both Government and the rail industry, and are designed to inform the development of the Government's strategy for the railway. They look at the challenges and options for development of the railway over the next 20 years, in the wider context of forecast change in population, the economy and travel behaviour.

A RPA does not commit the Government to specific proposals. Instead it sets out the Government' s current thinking on how the railway might best be developed to allow wider planning objectives for a region to be met, and identifies the priorities for further development work.

It is the Government's intention to publish the remaining RPAs covering the Thames Valley, Yorkshire and Humber, and Wales, during this summer.

Draft Local Transport Bill

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I am today publishing a draft, Local Transport Bill, for public consultation and parliamentary pre-legislative scrutiny. The draft Bill contains legislative proposals to help tackle congestion and improve public transport. Copies of the draft Bill, a consultation paper and other accompanying documents are available in the Libraries of the House and the Vote Office.

Our transport system plays a crucial role in our economy and society, and, in an increasingly inter-connected world, efficient transport networks are now more important than ever. We also need to ensure we continue to balance the needs of the economy with those of our environment and society. We have made huge progress over the past decade, but we need to ensure that our legislative and institutional frameworks keep pace with the many changes that are going on in the world around us.

The Eddington Transport Study, published in December last year, provided a number of timely recommendations to enhance the delivery of transport in the UK's cities. These recommendations were aimed at better equipping us to address the high potential future cost of congestion and ensure transport can continue to sustain economic growth.

I am committed to ensuring that we are well equipped to meet not only today's transport challenges, but also those of 10 or 20 years' time. The draft Local Transport Bill is a demonstration of that commitment. It is a key part of our strategy to empower local authorities to take appropriate steps to meet local transport needs in the light of local circumstances.

The draft Bill sets out our legislative proposals to:

enable local authorities to improve the quality of local bus services, building on the measures set out last December in "Putting Passengers First"

reform the arrangements for local transport governance in our major conurbations, to ensure strong local leadership and a coherent approach to transport across individual local authority boundaries and across different transport modes; and

reform the existing legislation relating to local road pricing schemes to ensure that, where local authorities wish to develop local schemes, they have the freedom and flexibility to do so in a way that best meets local needs. It will also help to ensure that any schemes are consistent and interoperable from the road user's perspective.

Consistent with our longer-term strategy on road pricing, the draft Bill would not provide the legal powers that would be needed for a national system of road pricing: we have made clear that decisions on that can be taken only in the light of further practical experience of local schemes. Further, separate, legislation would be needed if in future a decision was taken to move towards a national scheme and there would need to be a full and informed public debate.

Publication of the draft Bill provides an important opportunity to ensure we get our proposals right through public consultation, and for Parliament to scrutinise the legislation in draft. We need to learn from and build on the diversity of experience of transport professionals and transport users across the country, and I encourage all interested parties to participate in the consultation process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection reports on the following councils were published on Manchester City Council, South Lakeland District Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. Copies have been placed in the Library.

The BFI reports detail a range of strengths and weaknesses in the housing benefit services provided by councils and make recommendations to improve the security and efficiency of benefit delivery.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the reports and may ask the councils for proposals in response to BFI's findings.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 23 May 2007

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth and Culture Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Shaun Woodward): The Education, Youth and Culture Council will be held on 24-25 May in Brussels. I will be representing the UK on 24 May when Culture and Audiovisual issues will be taken. Education and Youth issues will be taken on 25 May.

The first item on the agenda concerns the Council Conclusions on the contribution of the cultural and creative sectors to the achievement of the Lisbon objectives. Following the publication of a study on the Economy of Culture in Europe prepared for the European Commission last year, there has been an impetus within the Culture Council to ensure that the importance of the cultural and creative sectors (particularly in employment terms) remains on the political agenda of the EU. At the beginning of this year the German presidency proposed a set of draft Council Conclusions for negotiation by the Commission and member states based on that report's recommendations. These have been finalised at official level and the Council is now expected to adopt the Conclusions at this meeting. I intend to support the adoption of these Conclusions.

The presidency will then seek to reach political agreement on proposals to amend the Television Without Frontiers Directive. The proposals before the Council are a significant improvement on those which the European Commission originally published in December 2005. In particular, their scope is considerably narrower. Instead of applying potentially damaging regulation to a very wide range of iternet and other new media services as the December 2005 proposals would have done, the amended proposals will apply only to television and television-like on demand services, in particular video-on-demand. They will also meet the Government's requirements in other respects, in particular by preserving the "Country of Origin" principle for assigning jurisdiction over cross-border services and by cutting down detailed EU regulation of television advertising. I therefore intend to endorse these proposals in the Council.

Under Any Other Business, the Council is invited to adopt a decision on the selection of two member states with a view to the nomination by the Council of two experts in the selection panel for the European Capital of Culture Community Action. The presidency will provide information regarding the ongoing work on the Third Work Plan for Culture. The presidency will also provide feedback on expert conferences in the field of culture and the "More trust in content" expert conference organised by the German presidency. The Commission will do a presentation on a European agenda for culture in a globalising world. I do not expect to intervene on any of these items.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Fisheries Agency

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I have set the Marine Fisheries Agency (MFA) the following performance targets for 2007-08.

Fishing Vessel Licensing

Issue 100 per cent. of over 10-metre licences biennially by 23 March and 100 per cent. of under 10-metre licences biennially by 30 June.

Quota Management

No overfishing of quota stocks by vessels or groups for which MFA has management responsibilities and which results in EU deduction or infraction proceedings against the UK.

Enforcement on Land

Deploy enforcement resources in line with risk weightings on land and risk and intelligence based tasking plans at sea.

Grants

Process 90 per cent. of claims within eight weeks of receipt of all necessary information.

Fisheries Data

Enter 90 per cent. of information on catches and fishing activity onto the fisheries database within five working days of receipt of all necessary information.

Marine Environment

Deploy inspection resources in line with risk weightings.

Issue 65 per cent. of FEPA licences in 12 weeks and 80 per cent. in 15 weeks (excluding offshore renewable licences).

Further details are given in the MFA business plan for 2007-08, copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

HEALTH

Part IX of the Drug Tariff

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): The Department has been reviewing the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services in primary care since October 2005.

The current arrangements under Part IX have not been reviewed in any detail for over 20 years. Nor is there any transparency between what is paid for an item and the cost of services. Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that the underlying cost structures have changed quite significantly; for instance, manufacturing processes have become more efficient and low-cost.

In addition, there are no uniform standards of care provided by dispensers in relation to these items. Nor are the key dispensing contractors—pharmacy contractors and dispensing appliance contractors—reimbursed and remunerated in the same way.

Therefore, in conducting this review, the Department's key objectives have been to:

maintain and, where applicable, improve the quality of patient care;

ensure that the national health service, and the taxpayer, is receiving value for money; and

ensure fair remuneration of valued services provided by the pharmacy and appliance contractors.

The most recent consultations closed on 2 April 2007. There were three consultation papers in all:

Arrangements for the reimbursement pricing of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

Proposed amendments to the regulatory terms of service of pharmacy and appliance contractors in relation to dispensing items listed in Part X of the Drug Tariff.

The Department received 137 formal responses. These came from patient groups, the NHS, trade bodies representing industry and dispensing appliance contractors, pharmacy contractors, dispensing doctors and individual providers—both manufacturers and dispensers. The Department also received a large number of letters from patients and MPs who had been alerted to the consultation by the dispensing contractors.

The volume and complexity of the responses are such that the Department has decided that it needs more time to analyse the information provided. This analysis needs to take account of comments made about the Department's proposals regarding reimbursement for items and on the proposed levels of remuneration for particular services—such as home delivery and product customisation.

Consequently, no changes will be implemented in July 2007 as proposed in the consultation documents. Moreover, we do not expect that the review will be completed before the end of the year.

Critically, throughout the review, the needs of patients continue to be paramount and the Department is committed to ensuring that their care is maintained and improved. The Department also seeks to ensure that the NHS is receiving value for money and that the services provided by all dispensing contractors are to the same standard no matter where in England a user of appliances may live.

JUSTICE

Tribunals Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): The following list of key performance indicators has been set for the Tribunals Service for 2007-08.

1. Seventy five per cent. of tribunal applications will be dealt with, within each individual tribunal's target time.

2. Measure the percentage of customers who are satisfied with the service they receive against a target to be set during 2007-08.

3. To reduce annually the operating costs of the Tribunals Service in real terms from those in 2006-07 with a target of 1.10 per cent. set for 2007-08.

Copies of the Tribunals Service strategy and business plan for 2007-08 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Copies are also available on the internet at: http://www.tribunals.gov.uk/publications.htm

TRANSPORT

Utility Diversion Work (Tottenham Court Road)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): The Department for Transport has received a request from Cross-London Rail Links Ltd (CLRL) for additional funding of £6,525,000 to contribute towards the cost of utility diversion work at Tottenham Court Road station, one of the planned interchange stations for Crossrail.

The funding is required to enable CLRL to contribute an agreed 50 per cent. share of the costs of utility diversion work at Tottenham Court Road station: this preparatory work is part of a London Underground Ltd (LUL) project to relieve congestion by constructing a new ticket hall plaza. The plaza project has been designed to accommodate the planned future Crossrail interchange, the powers for which are contained in the Crossrail Bill. LUL intends to start main construction works on the plaza as soon as possible after the Crossrail Bill gains Royal Assent, expected in the next session. In order to do this, LUL have had to commence work on the diversion of utilities, for which they possess the necessary planning permission.

The Department supports CLRL's request on value for money grounds—the additional cost of doing the Crossrail-specific utility diversion work in a second phase would be more than £3 million—and to avoid a second round of costly disruption for local businesses and residents.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £6,525,000 will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for the Department of Transport once the Crossrail Bill has been approved by Parliament. Pending that approval, this urgent expenditure will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

Road Pricing Demonstrations Project

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): Today I am informing the House that I am placing in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) two notices inviting interested companies to bid to be part of framework agreements to run different elements of a road pricing Demonstrations Project "Demonstrations". Copies of the accompanying context document are available in both Libraries of the House.

I announced last May that the Government intend to run some Demonstrations to help us understand how time, distance and place road pricing could function so that it safeguards people's privacy, and operates reliably

and accurately. We recognise that people are concerned about the possible impact road pricing might have on their privacy, and they want to be reassured that any road pricing schemes would be fair. The OJEU notices published today are simply the next stage in the procurement process to enable us to take the Demonstrations forward and address these issues in practice.

The Demonstrations will inform the work that 10 local areas are doing to develop proposals for local road pricing schemes. Alongside the draft Local Transport Bill, which I published yesterday, the Demonstrations will help local areas to develop local road pricing schemes as part of packages of local measures to tackle local congestion problems. These packages of measures will be eligible for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund, which will provide up to £200 million per year from 2008. We expect local authorities to submit their proposals in the summer, with the first road pricing schemes going live in local areas in four to five years time.

The Demonstrations will also build our understanding of the components that would need to be commonly specified across all potential future time, distance and place road pricing schemes to ensure road users could move easily between one scheme and another. It is important that any future road pricing schemes are easy for people to use, and consistent with one another.

No decisions have been taken on whether to move towards a national road pricing scheme. It is only on the evidence from local schemes that any such decision could be taken, and the Government have made clear that there would need to be a full public debate. The Demonstrations will help to inform that debate by building our understanding of how road pricing systems and technologies might be designed and operated to address people's legitimate concerns about privacy, reliability and accuracy.

We expect the Demonstrations to begin in the Spring of 2008.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 24 May 2007

TREASURY

Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (COE/OECD Convention)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): The United Kingdom signed the joint Council of Europe/OECD Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters on 24 May 2007. The text of the convention is published on the websites of both organisations. An Order in Council incorporating the provisions of the convention into domestic law will be laid before the House of Commons for approval in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

North-West Regional Spatial Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Meg Munn): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government intends to publish on 29 May, for consultation, her proposed changes to the draft revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North-East.

The current Regional Spatial Strategy, initially published as regional planning guidance (RPG1), became the Regional Spatial Strategy in September 2004 with the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The Regional Spatial Strategy is part of the statutory development plan, and sets the framework for the production of local development frameworks and local transport plans.

A draft revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy was submitted to Government in June 2005 by the North-East Assembly, and tested in an Examination in Public during March and April 2006. The report of the Examination in Public was published by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in August 2006. The next step is to publish the Secretary of State's proposed changes for consultation, prior to finalisation and publication of the Regional Spatial Strategy by the Secretary of State. On final publication it will supersede the current Regional Spatial Strategy.

In proposing these changes the Secretary of State has considered the recommendations of the independent panel who conducted the Examination in Public and has also taken into account all the representations made on the draft revision, and changes in Government policy since the draft revision was submitted.

The Regional Spatial Strategy will set a framework for the development of the North-East region to 2021. It supports a continuing level of economic growth, and a broad strategy for the location of new development. It includes proposals for the location of the main areas of housing and employment growth, and for improvements to the quality and management of transport infrastructure. It has policies to address climate change, waste management and environmental issues.

Also being published are the reports of a Sustainability Appraisal of The Proposed Changes, and a draft Appropriate Assessment of the Regional Spatial Strategy revision, in accordance with the European habitats directive.

At the start of the consultation, I will be writing to the North-East Assembly with the proposed changes. Because a number of these changes involve new proposals by Government, or the gathering of new information from the North-East Assembly and other stakeholders, we have set in progress a two-stage consultation. During a first ten-week period, we are requesting the North-East Assembly and other stakeholders to provide additional information to help to finalise policies. After ministerial consideration of this, and all other representations, a further set of proposed changes will be published, for a further consultation lasting eight weeks. While this will extend the overall timetable, we believe that this is justified in order to give all stakeholders a full opportunity to consider all the relevant material, and the Secretary of State's final proposals.

Following consideration of responses to the consultation, the Secretary of State expects to publish the finalised Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East early in 2008.

Copies of the relevant documents, together with the reports of the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses at the end of May and will be provided to all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

DEFENCE

Royal School of Military Engineering (PPP)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The Royal School of Military Engineering Public Private Partnership (PPP) project has for some time been assessing a range of options for the relocation of two units that fall within the scope of the project, the Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal School (DEODS) and the National Search Centre (NSC) currently located at Lodge Hill/Chattenden in the Medway Towns, Kent.

These units were to have been relocated to the Defence Munitions Centre at Kineton, Warwickshire, as part of the PPP solution. However, in late 2005 this move proved impracticable. In 2006 alternative sites, that were technically viable, were identified and costed by the contractor. These proposals have since been assessed by the MOD and following the conclusion of this work the MOD can confirm its intent to relocate the DEODS and NSC to Bicester thereby releasing land at Lodge Hill/Chattenden in the Medway Towns in Kent for the development of a new, sustainable mixed-use community.

HEALTH

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (Code of Practice)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): The new edition of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's code of practice for infertility clinics has been approved and laid before Parliament today. The code has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Assets Recovery Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): The Assets Recovery Agency's annual report 2006-07 and annual plan 2007-8 have been laid before Parliament today.

The annual report covers the agency's fourth full year of operation and provides an assessment of performance against its annual plan 2006-07.

The agency has continued to build on its earlier successes in disrupting criminal groups and seizing their assets. In 2006-07, the total amount of realised receipts from assets recovered by the agency was a record £15.9 million. The agency disrupted a total of 114 criminal enterprises, 92 in England and Wales and 22 in Northern Ireland, exceeding the total minimum target of 90. It did so by the early restraint of assets to the value of £73.6 million which exceeded the stretch target of £65 million. The agency obtained civil recovery orders and tax assessments in 40 cases with a value of £16.6 million. It also adopted 45 cases for criminal confiscation investigation against a target of 15 cases.

The agency has delivered an extensive training and accreditation programme for financial investigators, again exceeding its targets.

The agency's annual plan 2007-08 has been prepared by the director of the agency and has been approved by Home Office and Northern Ireland Office Ministers. The plan focuses on the agency's aims, priorities and targets for the year ahead and sets out how it intends to exercise its functions in Northern Ireland.

The agency will continue to exercise its powers of investigation and asset recovery against criminals in support of the Government's commitment to taking the profit out of crime. The agency is committed to maintaining its efforts in the recovery of criminal assets during the transition period leading to the proposed merger with the Serious Organised Crime Agency, as provided for in the Serious Crime Bill.

The Asset Recovery Action Plan

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): Seizing criminal assets delivers a wide range of benefits, from depriving criminals of capital to reducing the incentives for crime and the harm caused by crime, as well as promoting fairness and confidence in the criminal justice system. In 2006-07 the total amount recouped by all agencies involved in asset recovery in England, Wales and Northern Ireland was £125 million. This is a five-fold increase over five years. We want to build on this success. The Government are therefore publishing today an Asset Recovery Action Plan. The Action Plan has two purposes. Firstly it sets out robust proposals on how we are to reach our challenging target of recovering £250 million of the proceeds of crime by 2009-10. The Plan goes on to outline, for consultation, policy proposals for taking things further, including some radical ideas to move towards the Government's long term vision of detecting up to £1 billion of criminal assets.

The consultation period will end on 23 November 2007. A copy of the Action Plan is being placed in the Library of the House.

Counter-Terrorism

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (John Reid): I am today informing Parliament of an ongoing police operation to locate three British citizens who are believed to have absconded from Control Orders on Monday night.

It is believed that these individuals wanted to travel abroad for terrorism-related purposes. They are not considered at this time to represent a direct threat to the public in the UK. The control orders were therefore designed to prevent travel.

Their control orders included obligations requiring them to surrender any travel documents and report each day to a local police station, and two of the individuals were required to phone a monitoring company each night. On the evening of 21 May, these two individuals failed to call the monitoring company. All three individuals failed to report to their local police station on 22 May.

Public safety is the top priority for the Government and the police. Locating these individuals is an operational matter for the police, and an active investigation is underway. On police operational advice, and to assist the investigation, I approached the High Court to lift the anonymity orders for these three individuals and this was agreed late yesterday afternoon. As a result, the police were able to make a public appeal as part of their ongoing investigation.

As I have consistently made clear, control orders are far from 100 per cent. effective, but under our existing laws they are as far as we can go.

Unfortunately, within these limits, it is very difficult to prevent determined individuals from absconding. Nevertheless, I am already appealing to the House of Lords in several other control order cases about the interpretation of Article 5 ECHR (deprivation of liberty). We will consider other options—including derogation—if we have exhausted ways of overturning previous judgements on this issue.

Police Authority Capital Grant 2007-08

The Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police (Mr. Tony McNulty): On 19 February 2007 I announced the allocation to police authorities in

England and Wales of an additional £25 million of capital for 2006-07, which came from money originally held back for restructuring.

The capital allocations to police authorities for 2007-08 which were announced January 2006 had also been adjusted to take account of money which had been retained centrally for the capital costs associated with police force mergers.

I am pleased to be able to announce today that, as with last year, a further £25 million of capital is now available for distribution to police authorities for 2007-08. A breakdown of the allocation of this additional money is shown in the table attached. The money has been distributed in order to achieve the same outcome as would have been the case if it had been included in the original distribution.

As a consequence of this additional money, the total amount of capital grant allocated to police authorities in 2007-08 will be £195 million.

My officials are writing to police authorities and forces to inform them of this additional grant.

Police Capital Allocations 2007-08

	Original Allocation £m	*Extra £m*	*Total Allocation £m*
Avon and Somerset Police Authority	3.712	0.554	4.266
Bedfordshire Police Authority	1.567	0.221	1.788
Cambridgeshire Police Authority	1.877	0.270	2.147
Cheshire Police Authority	2.361	0.374	2.735
City of London	1.362	0.190	1.552
Cleveland Police Authority	1.927	0.273	2.200
Cumbria Police Authority	1.364	0.192	1.556
Derbyshire Police Authority	2.305	0.344	2.649
Devon and Cornwall Police Authority	4.125	0.578	4.703
Dorset Police Authority	1.535	0.216	1.751
Durham Police Authority	1.853	0.265	2.118
Dyfed-Powys Police Authority	1.181	0.171	1 352
Essex Police Authority	3.402	0.549	3.951
Gloucestershire Police Authority	1.379	0.196	1.575
Greater Manchester Police Authority	8.645	1.267	9.912
Gwent Police Authority	1.684	0.236	1.920
Hampshire Police Authority	4.243	0.657	4.900
Hertfordshire Police Authority	2.067	0.385	2.452
Humberside Police Authority	2.612	0.369	2.981
Kent Police Authority	3.936	0.600	4.536
Lancashire Police Authority	4.081	0.594	4.675
Leicestershire Police Authority	2.546	0.358	2.904
Lincolnshire Police Authority	1.443	0.206	1.649
Merseyside Police Authority	5.103	0.720	5.823
Metropolitan Police Authority	44.973	6.552	51.525
Norfolk Police Authority	1.984	0.286	2.270
North Wales Police Authority	1.706	0.254	1.960
North Yorkshire Police Authority	1.570	0.249	1.819
Northamptonshire Police Authority	1.563	0.235	1.798
Northumbria Police Authority	4.676	0.703	5.379
Nottinghamshire Police Authority	2.754	0.407	3.161
South Wales Police Authority	3.654	0.513	4.167
South Yorkshire Police Authority	4.021	0.564	4.585
Staffordshire Police Authority	2.555	0.358	2.913
Suffolk Police Authority	1.636	0.231	1.867
Surrey Police Authority	2.163	0.384	2.547
Sussex Police Authority	3.294	0.530	3.824
Thames Valley Police Authority	5.479	0.789	6.268
Warwickshire Police Authority	1.491	0.260	1.751
West Mercia Police Authority	2.725	0.384	3.109
West Midlands Police Authority	9.173	1.344	10.517
West Yorkshire Police Authority	6.758	0.959	7.717
Wiltshire Police Authority	1.515	0.213	1.728
Total	170.000	25.000	195.000

Notes:

1.In line with the revenue grant increase in 2006-07, the capital grant announced in early 2006 was calculated as a flat rate reduction for all (the 2005/06 total was £210 million). The £25 million uplift has been applied similarly.

2. Allocations include Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue). The £25 million grant Increases have been applied to Police Grant (as they would if full allocation had been possible early in 2006) not to Supported Capital Expenditure Revenue).

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Oral Statements on the Order Paper

The Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Jack Straw): On 15 March 2007 I informed Members of improvements to the process by which notice is given to the House when Ministers plan to make an oral statement.

I set out plans that wherever notice had already been given to the House via a written ministerial statement, oral or written questions, or elsewhere on the floor of the House (for example, in debate or at business questions) that an oral statement will be made on a certain date, it

would be helpful to the House for this to be recorded in the House's business papers. This improvement has been welcomed on all sides of the House.

However, there have been occasions where it would have been convenient for the House to have been made aware of forthcoming oral statements, even though notice of such a statement had not been previously given as described above. Accordingly, I have asked for a written notice to be printed on the Order of Business on the day of the statement, in those circumstances where I think the House would appreciate prior notification, and only following notification to the House from my office.

The Government would retain the current freedom to make statements without prior notice having been given in this way and, if necessary, not to proceed with a statement of which prior notice had been given.

I am grateful to Mr. Speaker, for acknowledgement of his support for these proposals.

PRIME MINISTER

Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): On 29 January 2007, I announced a way forward on the issue of faith-based adoption and fostering agencies and the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007. As I set out at that time, the interests of the child, and particularly the most vulnerable children, must come first. I confirmed that there would not be a specific exemption from the legislation for faith-based adoption and fostering agencies. However, there would be a transition period until the end of 2008, with a statutory duty for any faith-based agency which does not process applications from same sex couples to refer them to another agency. I am pleased that both Houses approved these Regulations, which provide a massive step forward in ending discrimination against gay people, and that the Regulations have now come into force.

In my announcement on 29 January 2007, I said that I would commission a regular independent assessment from adoption and child welfare experts on the impact of the Regulations on adoption in order to maintain the existing body of expertise. I have today asked Barbara Hutchinson, Executive Director of the British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF), to chair the independent assessment process. As a body working across the UK, campaigning for better outcomes for children, BAAF is well-placed to engage with the whole sector and formulate workable recommendations for consideration by Government. Further details of the assessment team and its terms of reference have been placed in the Library of the House.

Faith-based adoption agencies provide an extremely valuable service, particularly for the most vulnerable children. It is very important that local authorities continue to work with and support these agencies given the vital work that they do. I am confident that proposals will be identified which ensure that all agencies comply with the Regulations and at the same time allow their services and expertise to be retained and developed.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BSB/ITV

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Alistair Darling): On 26 February 2007, I issued an intervention notice under section 42(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002 in respect of British Sky Broadcasting Group's acquisition of a 17.9 per cent. stake in ITV plc. This meant that, in accordance with sections 44 and 44A of the Enterprise Act, on 27 April I received reports from the Office of Fair Trading on the competition effects of the transaction and from Ofcom on the effects of the transaction on the public interest consideration specified in the intervention notice. I am now required to take a decision under section 45 of the Enterprise Act on whether to refer the transaction to the Competition Commission for fuller investigation. I have decided to refer the transaction to the Competition Commission under section 45(2) of the Enterprise Act.

In reaching this decision I have had regard to the provisions of the relevant legislation and have given careful consideration to the reports I received from the Office of Fair Trading and Ofcom, including the summaries of the submissions made by the parties and by third parties that are contained in those reports. I have also considered carefully the additional representations my Department subsequently received from British Sky Broadcasting and have obtained advice from Ofcom under section 106B of the Enterprise Act on questions raised in those additional representations. In accordance with section 106B(3) of the Enterprise Act, Ofcom will publish this further advice to me.

The Office of Fair Trading's report includes their decisions that:

(i) it is or may be the case that a relevant merger situation has been created as a result of British Sky Broadcasting Group's acquisition of shares in ITV plc;

(ii) the creation of that merger situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition such that further investigation by the Competition Commission is warranted; and

(iii) it is not appropriate to deal with the matter by way of undertakings in lieu of a reference.

I am bound by the Enterprise Act to accept these decisions.

The report from Ofcom includes their conclusion that, as a result of the relevant merger situation, there may not be a sufficient plurality of persons with control of the media enterprises serving the UK cross-media audience for national news and the UK TV audience for national news. They advise that this may be expected to operate against the public interest and that a fuller investigation of the matter by the Competition Commission is warranted. In accordance with sections 107(3)(b) and (ba) and 107(9)(a) of the Act, I am today publishing the reports I received from the Office of Fair Trading and Ofcom.

I consider the statutory thresholds for making a reference provided in section 45(2) of the Enterprise Act are met in this case in that I believe that it is or may be the case that:

(i) a relevant merger situation has been created;

(ii) the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition;

(iii) the public interest consideration mentioned in the intervention notice is relevant; and

(iv) taking account only of the substantial lessening of competition and the relevant public interest consideration, the creation of the situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest.

This decision to make a reference under section 45(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002 means the Competition Commission will, in accordance with section 47(2) of that Act, decide whether a relevant merger situation has been created, whether the creation of that situation has resulted or may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition and whether, taking account of the specified public interest consideration concerned, the situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest. Detailed investigation by the Competition Commission means the effect of the transaction on competition and media plurality will be examined in depth enabling substantive conclusions to be reached on the basis of all the relevant arguments and facts. Under section 51 of the Enterprise Act, the Competition Commission is required to provide a report to me within 24 weeks of the date of the reference, although it may extend this deadline by up to eight weeks if there are special reasons why this is necessary.

Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Malcolm Wicks): The following statement provides information on the Competitiveness Council in Brussels on 21 and 22 May 2007, at which I represented the UK.

Day 1 Monday 21 May

The Council opened with a progress report on better regulation under the German Presidency. There were also Progress Reports from the Presidency on the Mutual Recognition (Goods) Regulation and on a Common Framework for the marketing of products (The New Approach). The Council noted progress on these dossiers without discussion.

Council Conclusions on Industrial Policy were adopted. The main debate revolved around sectoral issues. Compromise wording regarding the financing of ship building was agreed. Text was also agreed on plans to reduce CO_2 emissions from cars, where Member states called on the Commission to carry out a full impact assessment.

At the request of several Member States, the Commission then presented its Consumer Policy Strategy which was published earlier this year. Member States did not intervene. A Council resolution is expected to be agreed at the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council on 30 May.

The next item on the agenda was the Consumer Credit Directive on which political agreement was reached. Discussion centered on the optional threshold below which those repaying a loan early should not have to pay compensation to lenders for the loss of agreed interest. Eventually, Member States agreed to a compromise level of 10,000 Euros, thus enabling Political Agreement on a Common Position to be reached. The Netherlands and Greece voted against, and Belgium and Luxembourg abstained. I intervened to enter a minutes statement regretting the failure to carry out an impact assessment on this proposal and stressing that it should not set a precedent for other work in the field of financial services.

Day 2 Tuesday 22 May

The second day was devoted to Research and Space business.

The fourth meeting of the "Space Council" was held between the Competitiveness Council and the Council of the European Space Agency (ESA). I, along with a number of Space Ministers, made brief statements about the importance of a European Space Policy (ESP). The Council Resolution on European Space Policy was unanimously adopted after Ministers' interventions.

Under the research items, the Presidency reported on progress on negotiations on the European Institute of Technology on which I, and other Member States, noted a number of outstanding issues which needed to be resolved, notably concerning financing.

The Commission presented its first two proposals for Council regulations to establish Joint Technology Initiatives, one on innovative medicines and the other on embedded computing systems.

A discussion took place on the European Research Area Green Paper, following the exchange at the informal meeting in Würzburg in May. Member States emphasised the importance of the debate and welcomed the Commission's consultation process.

Linked to this discussion, Council Conclusions were adopted on research infrastructures, inviting Member States to take forward the work of the European Strategic Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI).

Items covering other business were taken over the two days.

Luxembourg raised concerns about the impact of the proposal for a Regulation on the law applicable to contractual obligations (Rome 1), I, supported by a number of other Member States, echoed Luxembourg's concerns about its potential impact on the single market and regretted the lack of an impact assessment.

In addition, the Council noted, without debate, information provided by the Presidency on the following items:

the outcome of the Würzburg informal Competitiveness Council on "The Internal Market in Global Competition";

the state of play of the proposal for a directive on improving the effectiveness of review procedures concerning the award of public contracts;

the proposal for a directive amending directive 2003/87/EC so as to include aviation activities in the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community;

the proposal for a directive laying down rules on nominal quantities for pre- packed products;

the European Conference "Innovation and Market Access through Standardisation" (Berlin, 26- 27 March 2007);

the 4th European Conference on Craft Industries (Stuttgart, 16-17 April 2007) (9095/07);

the European Conference on Tourism (Berlin/Potsdam, 15-16 May 2007);

the GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) Conference (Munich, 17 April 2007);

The forthcoming Euro-Med research and education ministers conference (Cairo, 18 June 2007)

The Council noted the information provided by the Commission concerning the Regulation on a globally harmonised system of classification and labelling.

The Council also noted information from the Commission regarding forthcoming proposals to establish joint national research programmes under Article 169 of the Treaty, to be presented during 2007 and 2008.

At Poland's request, the Council took note of the information on Poland's proposal to organize the exhibition EXPO 2012 in Wroclaw.

The Council noted the information provided by the Italian delegation on Milan's candidacy to host Expo 2015 with the theme of "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

The Council took note of the information provided by the Portuguese delegation on the work programme of the incoming Presidency.

TRANSPORT

Regional Funding Allocations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Gillian Merron): The regional funding allocations (RFAs) process has, for the first time, given regions a say in decision-making about transport schemes that affect them at the regional and local levels. In July last year, the Government responded to the RFA advice submitted by regional bodies, welcoming the significant progress which each region had made. Following this, the Department for Transport launched a consultation inviting views on how the processes which were put in place to develop the transport aspects of the advice could be further improved. A summary of the responses to this consultation has been placed in the Libraries of the House and can also be found on the Department's website at: www.dft.gov.uk.

The Government are considering the options for taking the RFA exercise forward as part of the wider sub-national review of economic development and regeneration, which will report to my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Trust Ports

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): I am today announcing the publication of a report on future reform of the trust port sector. More than 50 ports in England and Wales are trust ports; independent statutory bodies, governed by unique local legislation and controlled by an independent board rather than shareholders. While many trust ports are no longer commercially active, the many that are include Dover and Milford Haven, two ports of prominent national significance, as well as other major ports such as the Tyne, and the Port of London Authority with its vital conservancy duties in the Thames estuary.

The Department wished to understand better how to optimise the efficiency and accountability of the major trust ports, and to this end, in January 2007 appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) to carry out a study of the sector, including an analysis of the ports' efficiency, accountability to stakeholders and options for voluntary corporate restructuring. While the study concerned primarily the six largest commercial trust ports, its findings will be of interest to all trust ports, and to the wider ports industry.

In broad terms, the report concludes that the trust model retains a legitimate role within a mixed ports sector but that, in the absence of shareholders, trust ports should do more to identify, and account for, the use of their profits—what the report terms their 'stakeholder dividend'. The report also concludes that, while the largest trust ports operate on a sound commercial basis, in some cases their financial performance falls short of that of their private sector comparators, and recommends a series of measures to ensure that these important pieces of national infrastructure are able to meet their potential. Levels of accountability among trust ports are also found generally to be good, but with room for improvement, and the resultant recommendations point towards enhanced reporting and updated governance arrangements. PwC explored various voluntary options for structural change including the creation of an operating subsidiary below the level of the trust board, which could involve private sector participation.

The study represents a valuable contribution to the debate on the trust port sector. The various recommendations contained in the report have been considered and the Government will bring forward refreshed guidance for trust ports in England and Wales later this year, following further discussion with the industry based on these recommendations. Copies of the report are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 8 May 2007

NORTHERN IRELAND

Asthma

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to improve self-management of asthma in Northern Ireland; and what plans he has to increase primary care and care in the community funding to this end. [136044]

Paul Goggins: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Construction: Bangor County Down

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate the total cost of the development of Queen's Parade on Bangor seafront in County Down; and what financial contribution is being made by the Department of Social Development to the project, broken down by area of funding. [136070]

Mr. Hanson: A scheme acceptable to the Department for Social Development on this site has not yet been arrived at. Consultants, employed by the Department, are currently evaluating and appraising options for the site and consequently it is difficult to give an accurate estimate of the cost of the eventual scheme. Given the size and complexity of the site, indicative estimates at this stage would suggest the total cost could be up to £180 million. The design and build costs for the scheme will be met by the private sector.

So far the Department has committed to spending £175,000 on consultancy in relation to a full retail capacity analysis, a transport analysis, economic appraisal and urban design analyses of the options for the site. The Department has also acquired the Vennel car park at the centre of the proposed site for £550,000.

No decision has been made by the Department in relation to any other funding related to the scheme or to the area surrounding the proposed site.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the progress made in taking forward the Queen's Parade project on Bangor seafront in County Down. [136071]

Mr. Hanson: The Department for Social Development (DSD) was approached by North Down borough council, seeking support for a development scheme at Queen's Parade in Bangor town centre. The proposed scheme related to a mixed use development on land assembled by North Down borough council, but which was also likely to require the vesting of some additional land and properties to complete the site assembly. The scheme was designed by Karl Greenfarm Ltd., a consortium appointed by the council as their preferred developer.

In October 2005, following some due diligence work, DSD announced that it was unable to support the scheme as then constituted, but agreed to work with the developer and the council to explore alternative options and to seek to resolve outstanding issues. Planning permission for this scheme was also subsequently refused by the Planning Service in the Department of the Environment.

In September 2006, following a public consultation to examine some alternative proposals, DSD agreed to appoint specialist consultants to carry out a full retail capacity analysis, a transport analysis, economic appraisal, legal appraisal and urban design analyses of the options for the site.

It would be premature to pre-empt the outcome of the work currently being undertaken by the Department's consultants but the report will be published later in 2007.

Medicine: Education

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what advice was given to Foundation 2 doctors by the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency before January 2007 about the need for foundation trainees to sit Royal College postgraduate examinations; [134968]

(2) how many medical specialities in Northern Ireland *(a)* asked candidates during Medical Training Application Service round 1 interviews whether they had taken (i) Royal College examinations and (ii) an Advanced Life Support course and *(b)* gave consideration to Royal College examinations when scoring ST1 and FTSTA1 applicants. [134969]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NMDTA) advised foundation 2 doctors that funding would not be available for specialist examination courses and that there was no expectation that trainees should attempt College examinations during foundation training.

A majority of medical specialties asked about Royal College examinations and life support courses undertaken.

Consideration was not given to Royal College examinations when scoring ST1 and FTSTA1 applications.

This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Northern Ireland Commissioner for Victims and Survivors: Public Appointments

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) for what reasons no response has yet been made to the questions submitted by Mr. Justice Girvan in relation to the appointment of the Interim Victims Commissioner; [136067]

(2) what consideration he has given to providing a staged reply to the questions submitted by Mr. Justice Girvan in relation to the appointment of the Interim

Victims Commissioner as and when individual responses become available; [136068]

(3) when he expects to respond to the questions submitted by Mr. Justice Girvan in relation to the appointment of the Interim Victims Commissioner. [136069]

Mr. Hanson: The questions raised by Mr. Justice Girvan in his judgment, and which he referred to the Attorney-General, are being addressed by the Review being conducted by Peter Scott QC which will report to the Attorney-General. The progress of the Review is a matter for the Attorney-General. I can assure the hon. Lady that full co-operation is being given to the Review.

Planning Permission

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what reasons planning application (X/2007/0067) was withdrawn; what representations his Department received requesting that the application be withdrawn; and if he will make a statement. [136048]

Mr. Hain: The Department of the Environment's Planning Service received an application on 12 January 2007 for the change of use from a derelict amusement arcade to a licensed restaurant with external alterations at 27, The Parade, Donaghadee. The application currently remains under consideration and is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Public Transport: Accidents

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many accidents by members of the public were recorded on each part of the Translink network in each of the last five years; and how much was paid out by Translink over the same period in compensation for these accidents. [136045]

Mr. Hain: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table details the total number of accidents recorded on the networks of Ulsterbus, Metro (formerly Citybus) and Northern Ireland Railways, in each of the last five financial years. The total compensation paid out by each company in each of these years is also provided. As compensation claims can often take some time to complete, compensation bills quoted against any one year will not necessarily reflect all expenditure paid out against the specific accidents recorded for that year.

	Ulsterbus		*Metro*		*NIR*		*Total*	
	Accidents	*Compensation (£)*	*Accidents*	*Compensation (£)*	*Accidents*	*Compensation (£)*	*Accidents*	*Compensation (£)*
2002-03	720	794,054	384	456,590	120	278,479	1224	1,529,123
2003-04	799	763,918	374	240,489	94	181,062	1267	1,185,469
2004-05	803	783,119	412	270,644	85	102,119	1300	1,155,882
2005-06	702	460,468	395	245,082	65	53,220	1162	758,770
2006-07	829	260,155	427	124,288	70	45,498	1326	429,941

This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Public Transport: Disabled

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of Translink stations have disabled access; and what steps he is taking to improve disabled access to the Translink network. [136047]

Mr. Hain: Translink confirms that 94 per cent. of its stations have disabled access.

Translink also confirms that they have commenced a programme to upgrade stations farther and make them compliant with disability discrimination legislation.

This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Roads Service

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) which public consultations the Roads Service of Northern Ireland and the Department of the Environment has conducted in the past 12 months on the location of new zebra and pelican crossings; what the time period was of such consultation; what steps were taken to ensure that nearby individuals and businesses were invited to participate in the consultation; and if he will make a statement; [135595]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the document setting out the criteria used to determine the location of zebra and pelican crossings in Northern Ireland; what the requirements are for the minimum distance from which such crossings must be visible to oncoming motorists; and if he will make a statement. [135597]

Mr. Hain: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) was asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to these questions. A copy of his reply, dated 4 May, is as follows.

This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 4 May 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland two Parliamentary Questions regarding:

1. which public consultations the Roads Service of Northern Ireland and the Department of the Environment has conducted in the past 12 months on the location of new zebra and pelican crossings; what the time period was of such consultation; what steps were taken to ensure that nearby individuals and businesses were invited to participate in the consultation; and if he will make a statement; and

2. if he will place in the Library a copy of the document setting out the criteria used to determine the location of zebra and pelican crossings in Northern Ireland; what the requirements are for the minimum distance from which such crossings must be visible to oncoming motorists; and if he will make a statement.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of the Department for Regional Development's Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

I should explain that Roads Service's policy in relation to pedestrian crossings is to provide such facilities where there is an identifiable need and where the conditions at any potential site make it difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road. An integral part of the process is an assessment of the 'demand' and 'difficulty' of crossing the road at the location concerned. The initial part of our assessment process uses the number of pedestrians (the initial demand factor) and the volume of traffic (the initial difficulty factor) to give an indication of the potential 'conflict' at a site. The assessment of the need for a crossing is then supplemented using a scorecard, which assigns scores to various other 'demand' and 'difficulty' factors, including collision history at the site. This policy is designed to assess the need and to prioritise locations "where pedestrians encounter difficulties in crossing the road due to the high volumes of vehicular traffic. This is applied consistently and impartially when assessing all requests in Northern Ireland, so that available funding can be directed at those sites with the greatest need.

Attached for information is a copy of our public information leaflet on Controlled Pedestrian Crossings (a copy will be placed in the House of Commons Library).

There is no statutory requirement for Roads Service to formerly consult on proposals to construct traffic management features such as pedestrian crossings. However, our policy is to carry out informal consultations with the police and frontagers along the length of road affected by any proposal. There is no set period for this consultation. The list at Appendix 1 details the locations of proposed zebra and pelican pedestrian crossings where consultations were carried out in 2006/07 financial year.

The requirements for the minimum distance from which all types of crossings must be visible to oncoming motorists depends on the approach speed of vehicles in the vicinity of a proposed crossings and are detailed below.

	All types of crossings—visibility requirements					
85 percentile approach speed (m.p.h.)	25	30	35	40	45	50
Desirable minimum visibility (metres)	50	65	80	100	125	150
Absolute minimum visibility (metres)	40	50	65	80	95	115

APPENDIX 1

Locations of Proposed Zebra and Pelican Controlled Pedestrian Crossings where consultation was carried out in the financial year 2006/2007

Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, at Castleview Road
Cavehill Road, Belfast, at Henderson Avenue
Glen Road, Belfast, at La Salle school
Odpark Road, Belfast, at Carr's Glen
Cliftonville Road, Belfast at Chestnut Gardens
Main Street, Donaghmore
Circular Road, Dungannon
Castledawson Road, Magherafelt
Mountjoy Road, Omagh
Saintfield Road, Ballygowan
Downpatrick Road, Killyleagh
Main Street, Millisle
Portadown Road, Tandragee
College Hill, Armagh
Avenue Road and Banbridge Road, Lurgan
Gilford Road, Lurgan
Castle Way, Antrim
Ballycastle Road, Coleraine
Castle Street, Ballycastle
Old Glenarm Road, Larne
Lonemoor Road, Londonderry
Crescent Link at Knightsbridge, Londonderry

Water Charges

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), *Official Report*, column 894W, on water meters, what the direct and indirect cost will be of providing water meters in the programme outlined. [135953]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Palace of Westminster: Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the causes are of the delay in completing the works relating to the new public entrance; when works were originally planned to be completed; when completion is expected; and if he will make a statement. [135784]

Nick Harvey: There have been a number of significant problems with this project which have contributed to the delay. They are being investigated and contractual discussions between the parties to the project are in progress. In these circumstances, it is not possible to go into the matter in further detail at this stage. The works were originally planned to be completed on 8 September 2006 and we are now advised by the main contractors, Verry, that the works will be completed in June 2007.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Forestry

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote sustainable forestry in Africa. [135661]

Hilary Benn: DFID is promoting sustainable forestry in Africa, with a commitment of over £70 million.

Some £50 million was recently committed to initiate a Congo Basin Forest Trust Fund. Some £11.5 million is being provided by DFID over the next three years to Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). DFID has also committed £12 million over the next four years to support African countries under the European Union's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. Ghana,

with DFID assistance, is in formal FLEGT negotiations with the EU, the first country in Africa to do so.

DFID works closely with the private sector and NGOs. For example, a "Tree Aid" initiative in Burkina Faso will soon be supported by the DFID Civil Society Challenge Fund. DFID is supporting NGOs in Uganda to monitor forest sector governance. NGOs are also participating in the DFID-funded 'Democratic Republic of Congo Roundtable', together with the World Bank. This is generating alternatives to industrial logging, including new forest management and financing systems. DFID funds an NGO piloting participatory forest mapping and zoning work in DRC which will help inform the design of alternatives.

DFID also supports the Rights and Resource Initiative, an international consortium including NGOs, which facilitates pro-poor forest policy, tenure and market reforms in Africa.

Africa: Water

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department is sponsoring to increase access to clean water and sanitation in Africa. [135660]

Hilary Benn: DFID is on track to double its commitment to water and sanitation in Africa, where the Millennium Development Goal target on water and sanitation is most off-track, to £95 million a year by 2007-08. We will then more than double funding again to £200 million a year by 2010-11.

DFID works at various levels. DFID helps African governments to implement their own plans to increase access to clean water and sanitation, and provides direct financing to projects and technical know-how. Examples include our partnership with UNICEF in Nigeria, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. In Ghana DFID delivers increased access to water and sanitation through support to German, Danish and Dutch Governments' programmes. DFID also provides indirect support to increased water and sanitation through projects such as the Girls Education Programme in Nigeria. DFID is currently developing a £100 million programme of support to water and sanitation in Ethiopia and a £35 million programme in Sierra Leone.

DFID supports African organisations to be more effective. DFID is providing £6 million of technical assistance to support implementation of the African Development Bank's ambitious Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative.

DFID takes action at the international level. DFID's "Call for Global Action" on water and sanitation, with one annual report, one high level global meeting, one national plan, one coordination group and one UN lead body will ultimately lead to more effective and efficient delivery of water and sanitation projects.

Further details of DFID's support for access to water and sanitation can be found in the report "Financial Support to the Water Sector 2004-06", and in the brochure "Meeting our Promises" and the "Fighting Poverty and Managing Water Goes Hand in Hand" leaflet. Copies of these have been placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Ministers in his Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135549]

Mr. Thomas: I visited India in January 2007 for two days.

The Government publish an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135375]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's grievance procedures are fully compliant with UK legislation and apply to civil servants working in the UK and overseas. We also apply them to our locally appointed staff overseas, who work under local contacts, unless local law dictates otherwise.

DFID investigated less than five complaints of sexual harassment in the last 12 months. Due to the small number, a breakdown by number, employment status and outcome is not made public on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people took sick leave for stress in his Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135469]

Mr. Thomas: DFID takes the issue of stress, whether work related or not, very seriously. Data from our Welfare and Counselling Service and sickness absence monitoring show that we have had 25 stress related cases in DFID in the last 12 months, 21 of which involved sick leave. This figure represents 1.41 per cent. of our total UK headcount.

In accordance with Cabinet Office guidance and Health and Safety Executive Management Standards, DFID has carried out a risk assessment for stress and has put in place a series of measures to assist individuals and line managers in dealing with, and where possible avoiding stress. Such measures include:

Immediate contact and offers of support from our welfare service on diagnosis of stress

an employee assistance programme available to all staff in overseas country offices, providing 24/7 telephone helpline and face to face counselling

provision of information through a dedicated health and wellbeing website (Askwell); heath promotion events and workshops on managing stress and achieving a healthy work/life balance

availability of flexible working to help with work/life balance

targeted support for senior staff including profiling, mentoring and coaching.

Developing Countries: Road Safety

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is conducting research into road safety in low-income and middle-income countries. [135681]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has a long history of working with the UK Transport Research Laboratory on issues relating to global road safety. Early research helped bring the magnitude of the problem to the attention of policy makers. DFID supported research included the publication of the widely used 'Towards safer roads in developing countries'. This work continues through DFID research department funding of the global Transport Knowledge Partnership to conduct new research and disseminate best practices.

DFID also funds transport and road safety research at the World Bank through the Trisp programme—Transport and Rural Infrastructure Services Learning and Sharing Partnership, which has included work on road safety.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of road safety in the developing world; and if he will make a statement. [135697]

Mr. Thomas: DFID provides core funds to the World Health Organisation, which holds the international responsibility for health data generally and also coordinates the UN response on road safety. The recent publication from the WHO "Youth and Road Safety" noted that road traffic injuries are the number one cause of death for young people between 10 and 24.

DFID draws on the "World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention", released in 2004 by the WHO and the World Bank, as the most influential, and still current, assessment of global road safety. The UK Department for Transport helped fund this publication. This highlights the serious development challenge presented by road accidents. The headline conclusion from this report was that annually 1.2 million people die on the world's roads and 90 per cent. of these are in low and middle income countries.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to implement UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/5: Improving Global Road Safety in its work overseas. [135700]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has taken various steps in line with recommendations contained within UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/5. We support the UN collaboration on road safety, most recently through jointly funding the February 2007 African Road Safety Conference.

DFID is pleased that road safety will be debated at the forthcoming World Health Assembly, and will brief the UK delegation to that assembly accordingly.

DFID also supports the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa. The thematic focus for the consortium for 2007 is the transport sector, and at the consortium meetings in Arusha in October 2007 there will be an opportunity to discuss incorporating approaches to road safety in the context of regional road financing in Africa.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for his Department to contribute to the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility. [135743]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not yet made a commitment to contribute to the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility. In April 2007 we received the final version of the Global Road Safety Facility's strategic plan. DFID is holding discussions on transport research priorities in August 2007 which could include road safety and the option of supporting the facility.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget for road building projects overseas was spent on road safety schemes in each year between 2001 and 2006; and if he will make a statement. [135679]

Mr. Thomas: DFID contributed the following funds to specific road safety initiatives in the last five years.

DFID bilateral expenditure on Road Safety, 2001 to 2006

	Road Safety expenditure	*Road Safety expenditure as percentage of transport sector expenditure*
2001-02	327,380	0.6
2002-03	225,160	0.5
2003-04	314,101	0.7
2004-05	167,804	0.3
2005-06	126,200	0.3

These contributions have all been to global and regional initiatives specifically on road safety, and do not reflect any contributions under transport in country programmes. The specific instruments DFID supports, such as the Global Road Safety Partnership and the sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme, seek to provide knowledge on road safety to ministries and agencies in partner countries. Some share of transport sector bilateral expenditure will be allocated to road safety, however this is not coded separately for financial reporting.

Additionally, DFID was pleased to provide financial support to the recent Africa Road Safety Conference where ministers of transport and health from across Africa agreed to halve the rate of road traffic accidents by 2015.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what guidelines exist for including road safety schemes in road building projects undertaken overseas by his Department. [135680]

Mr. Thomas: DFID places importance on assisting developing countries and donors collectively, to pay due attention to road safety and promoting best practice, by stressing integration of road safety into countries' own transport policies and planning, including guidelines for road building. To support this, DFID funds catalytic initiatives such as the Global Transport Knowledge Partnership, the Global Road Safety Partnership, and the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy programme which advises countries on transport policy including road safety guidelines.

The DFID collaborative programme with the World Bank includes promoting transport and social responsibility, including road safety, in the World Bank's transport portfolio. This has been very successful with good recognition of the importance of road safety in a recent World Bank's transport sector review, and attention to road safety in the new World Bank transport sector plan: "Safe, Clean and Affordable Transport".

Food Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support the new world food programme UNICEF ending child hunger and undernutrition initiative. [135629]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has worked hard to support and improve the design of the ending child hunger and under-nutrition initiative (ECHUI) through its close relationships with UNICEF and the world food programme (WFP).

In particular we have encouraged a stronger emphasis on country ownership, involvement of all key partners and better coordination with existing initiatives in the field of hunger and nutrition. Over time the initiative has rightly strengthened its focus on advocacy—to encourage efforts by host governments to direct their national policies to target child hunger and under nutrition.

The initiative is a global, regional and country level coordination mechanism, so funding will largely come from existing budgets. In 2006, DFID was the second largest donor to UNICEF providing £105 million and the fifth largest donor to the WFP providing £56 million.

HIV Infection: Drugs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries have *(a)* set and *(b)* published details of interim targets for 2008 towards universal access for anti-retroviral drugs; and what targets have been set. [136281]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is committed to achieving universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010. We worked hard to ensure that the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, adopted by the UN General Assembly in June 2006, committed countries to set ambitious national targets, including interim targets for 2008, to scale up towards the goal of universal access by 2010.

According to UNAIDS, around 90 countries have set targets for achieving universal access to treatment, of which 55 have set interim targets for 2008. Details, including what targets have been set, can be found on the UNAIDS website:

http://www.unaids.org/universalaccess/

We expect UNAIDS to report on countries' progress against these targets by mid-2008.

Overseas Aid: Environment Protection

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the £800 million environmental transformation fund is additional to previously committed overseas development aid. [135625]

Mr. Thomas: The environment transformation fund is being established to support development and poverty reduction through environmental protection and to help poor countries respond to climate change. The Chancellor announced that £800 million would be spent over the three financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to supplement the budgets of relevant departments, to be managed by DFID and DEFRA. DFID's departmental expenditure limit for those years will be announced in the autumn as part of the Government's settlement of the comprehensive expenditure review. The fund will form part of the Government's delivery of its overseas development assistance (ODA) commitments. The Government has set a clear timetable to reach 0.7 per cent. ODA/Gross National Income by 2013.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department plans to monitor the *(a)* environmental and *(b)* socio-economic impacts of the Environmental Transformation Fund. [135626]

Mr. Thomas: The management and administration of the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) is still being designed. They will incorporate the principles, and where applicable the procedures, used by DFID to monitor environmental and socio-economic impacts of our bilateral programmes.

Where the ETF is used to support programmes managed by other development agencies, for example the Multilateral Development Banks, we will require those agencies to apply their own environmental and socio-economic monitoring procedures.

Roads: Construction

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on road building programmes overseas in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [135678]

Mr. Thomas: DFID bilateral expenditure in the transport sector in the last five years is shown in the following table.

DFID bilateral expenditure on transport, 2001 to 2006

	Transport sector expenditure (£)
2001-02	57,511,917
2002-03	44,086,730
2003-04	45,375,116
2004-05	55,140,568
2005-06	50,117,298

In addition to this, DFID contributions to multilateral institutions, including the World Bank and the EC, include expenditure in the road sector. Annual UK multilateral contributions for productive infrastructure, which includes transport, amounts to around £140 million (2004 figures). Finally, in countries where DFID provides general budget support, a significant amount of the public spending in those countries will be on the transport sector. For example, the share of DFID budget support attributed to transport sector is 9 per cent. in Tanzania and 16 per cent. in Mozambique.

Although transport projects are predominantly in the road sector they involve activities much broader than road building. For example, DFID funding has strengthened road fund administrations in Ethiopia and Mozambique, to ensure that roads are better maintained.

World Bank

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the World Bank's efficiency and effectiveness since June 2005. [135705]

Hilary Benn: DFID regularly reviews the performance of organisations to which it gives money. We are developing new ways of assessing the effectiveness of multilateral development organisations in contributing towards the achievement of the millennium development goals, to inform our aid allocation decisions. This work includes both quantitative and qualitative assessments of the effectiveness of the World Bank's International Development Association. This work is due to be completed towards the second half of the year.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the selection process for the position of President of the World Bank. [135706]

Hilary Benn: In the past month DFID has received representations from a number of civil society organisations calling for a comprehensive reform of the selection process for the position of the president of the World Bank. The UK has a long-standing commitment to support developing country calls for a stronger say at the World Bank. As last year's UK White Paper on International Development makes clear, the practice of picking the heads of the World Bank and the IMF based on nationality should end and both presidents should be chosen on merit.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if the Government will make it its policy to establish an open and merit-based selection process for the President of the World Bank. [135745]

Hilary Benn: The UK has a long-standing commitment to support developing country calls for a stronger say at the World Bank. As last year's UK White Paper on International Development makes clear, the practice of picking the heads of the World Bank and the IMF based on nationality should end and both presidents should be chosen on merit.

TRANSPORT

A1: Northern Region

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the Highways Agency on the upgrade of the A1 in the northern region. [135652]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has regular discussions with the Highways Agency about all proposed improvement schemes for the A1 in the North East. I have recently agreed that they should continue the development work on the A1 Newcastle/Gateshead Western Bypass scheme.

A120: Braintree

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce the preferred route for the proposed upgrade of the A120 between Braintree and Marks Tey. [135405]

Dr. Ladyman: A Public Consultation on options for dualling the A120 between Braintree and Marks Tey ended on 17 June 2005, and resulted in a number of additional routes being suggested by respondents. The Highways Agency has been carrying out further work on these proposals, which should be complete this summer. Once I have received that advice I will be in a position to consider the way forward.

As the A120 is a route of regional importance the scheme has been considered in the Regional Funding Allocation prioritisation process. The scheme is included in the indicative list of schemes to be progressed so that they are ready to be added to the programme where necessary, for construction from 2009-10 to 2015-16.

Blackwall Tunnel

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultations took place between *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency and (i) Transport for London and (ii) the Metropolitan Police on the recent closure of the contraflow system of the Blackwall Tunnel. [135939]

Gillian Merron: No consultations took place between the Department and Highways Agency regarding the recent closure of the tidal flow system of the Blackwall Tunnel, which is an operational matter for Transport for London (TfL).

In conjunction with the Metropolitan police, TfL took the decision to close the tidal flow system on safety grounds.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce a national concessionary bus fare scheme which ensures that all pensioners have the opportunity to travel across national borders within the UK. [136078]

Gillian Merron: The Concessionary Bus Travel Bill, currently before Parliament, contains a power to allow, via future regulations, for mutual recognition of bus passes across the UK. The Department has had initial discussions with the devolved Administrations about the proposal. All have indicated support but we would need to work together to resolve the various technical and resource issues before mutual recognition could be pursued.

In the meantime, local authorities in England already have the flexibility—which the Bill does not change—to offer more than the statutory concession to their residents, taking into account local circumstances, for example, free travel in the vicinity of the local authority, which could include across borders.

Crossrail Line

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2007 with the Prime Minister, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the Mayor of London and business representatives on Crossrail, redacting any personal or commercially sensitive information as necessary. [131342]

Mr. Tom Harris: Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to such private meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of discussion.

Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Email

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) on the performance of their e-mail inquiry service to the public; and what the DVLA's target is for responding to inquiries e-mailed by the public. [135359]

Dr. Ladyman: Target for responding to inquiries e-mailed by the public is 95 per cent. within three working days.

Driving: Licensing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving licence applications were supported by false identity documents in each of the last five years. [134795]

Dr. Ladyman: Statistics recording the numbers of suspect identity documents detected by DVLA have been kept since July 2005. Between July 2005 and March 2007, 3,026 driving licence applications have been detected which were supported by suspected false identity documents.

Statistics are not available on the number of driving licence applications that were supported by false identity documents over the last five years. Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) reports suspect identity documents to the police and other appropriate authorities for investigation.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many investigations into people who fraudulently attempted to obtain driving licences led to the identification of *(a)* illegal immigration, *(b)* a vehicle having no valid MOT, *(c)* a vehicle on which vehicle excise duty had not been paid and *(d)* a driver driving without insurance in each of the last five years. [134797]

Dr. Ladyman: Cases of fraudulent attempts to obtain a driving licence detected by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) are referred to the police or other appropriate authorities for investigation. No information is available on the outcome of these investigations or whether vehicle roadworthiness, vehicle excise duty or motor insurance irregularities were also identified by the investigation.

Cases where suspected immigration irregularities are identified as part of the driving licence application are referred to the Border and Immigration Agency of the Home Office. Statistics recording the numbers of suspect applications for driving licences detected by the DVLA have been kept since July 2005. Between July 2005 and March 2006, 710 applications were referred to that Agency. Between April 2006 and March 2007, 920 applications were referred.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff at the *(a)* Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, *(b)* Driving Standards Agency and *(c)* Vehicle and Operator Services Agency were employed to identify identity fraud in each of the last five years. [134799]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) operates stringent identity checking procedures to ensure that driving licences are granted only after it is satisfied with the evidence of identity submitted. DVLA has a team of staff dedicated to conducting more detailed consideration of applications where initial checks have shown cause to suspect the authenticity of the application.

DVLA does not itself investigate suspected cases of identity fraud but refers to the appropriate authorities any cases where there appears to be a fraudulent application to obtain a driving licence.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) takes allegations of impersonation of driving test candidates extremely seriously and has established a dedicated team to protect the integrity of its processes. DSA investigates fully incidents of impersonation at driving test that are both reported to it and those that it detects through proactive investigation.

The average numbers of DVLA and DSA staff engaged in the work mentioned above in each year are:

	DVLA	DSA
2003-04	21	n/a
2004-05	25	8
2005-06	30	9
2006-07	30	12
2007 (currently)	35	16

No staff at the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency are dedicated specifically to the detection of identity fraud.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving licences were reported as lost in the post in each of the last five years. [134803]

Dr. Ladyman: The information asked for is not held in the form requested.

Highway Code: Cycling

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account was taken of the views of cyclists in the consultation process for the new Highway Code. [135682]

Dr. Ladyman: Over 4,000 individuals responded to the consultation. About 70 per cent. of the responses were from cyclists. In view of the level of interest from cyclists I met with the hon. Member for Islington, South and Finsbury (Emily Thornberry), chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Cycling Group on 7 September 2006.

In response to the views raised by respondents to the consultation, the rules for cyclists were amended. Some 30 other rules throughout the "Highway Code" were revised to add emphasis to the need for consideration of cyclists by other road users.

The view expressed by some that the "Highway Code" should omit the non-mandatory advice to cyclists about wearing helmets or high visibility clothing, was considered to be inappropriate on the grounds of the safety of cyclists. All road users have some responsibility for their own safety.

Lorries: Foreign Companies

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the level of compliance of foreign lorries with UK and EU safety regulations. [134716]

Dr. Ladyman: The most recent random survey of fleet condition undertaken by the Department's Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is on their web site at www.vosa.gov.uk.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many illegally operating foreign lorries in the UK were impounded in each year since 2002. [134718]

Dr. Ladyman: VOSA have impounded 10 foreign registered vehicles, all within the last 12 months comprising of seven Belgian registered vehicles and three Dutch registered vehicles.

M1: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account of the likely effects on congestion was taken of the roadworks taking place north of junction 8 of the M1 when scheduling the dates of lane closures and roadworks taking place near junction 4 of the motorway; whether consideration was given to delaying the work near junction 4 until the completion of the work north of junction 8; and if he will make a statement. [136181]

Dr. Ladyman: Before scheduling the roadworks between junctions 4 and 5 of the M1, a detailed analysis of the traffic impact of these works was carried out. The analysis predicted minimal queuing and no significant queuing has been noted so far during the works.

The analysis took into account the fact that the two sets of works were about 13 kilometres apart: standard roadworks guidance recommends that there is a 10 kilometre gap between different sets of traffic management to minimise delays to road users. In addition, traffic levels between junctions 4 and 5 on the M1 are comparatively low at just over half those experienced on the M1 north of the M25.

The works between junctions 4 and 5 aim to rectify a safety issue as a number of fatal and injury accidents have been attributed to standing water at this location. That being so and sine the traffic analysis predicted minimal queuing, the conclusion was to carry out the work now rather than waiting until the end of 2008 when the major widening scheme is expected to be completed.

A number of steps have been taken to minimise delays to road users on the M1. Work is being carried out 24/7 to complete the scheme quickly and any lane closures required are being carried out when traffic levels are low. In addition the speed limit through the M1 widening scheme between junction 8 and 10 has recently been increased from 40 mph to 50 mph.

M42

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will make an assessment of the road safety of the M42 pilot of hard shoulder running. [135926]

Dr. Ladyman: Hard shoulder running was introduced on the M42 on 12 September 2006. Due to the relatively low number of accidents that occur on motorways, at least three years of post accident data will be needed before a definitive overall conclusion can be reached on the impact of hard shoulder running on safety. Since hard shoulder running was introduced there have been no incidents that can be attributed to it.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many unregistered vehicles his Department estimates there are in the UK. [134712]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has made no estimate of the number of unregistered vehicles in the United Kingdom, therefore, the information requested is not available.

Some vehicles, while not registered in the UK, will be registered in a foreign country. Action is under way to educate and, if necessary, to take enforcement action against users of foreign vehicles to ensure they properly register and license their vehicles when used in this country.

Other vehicles will be incorrectly registered due to failure of previous keepers to notify DVLA that they have disposed of them. The Department has introduced Continuous Registration which encourages the notification of changes of keepership by ensuring the registered keeper remains liable for the licensing of the vehicle. Enforcement action is also taken against such registration offenders.

Motorways: Birmingham

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will extend hard shoulder running to all the motorways around Birmingham. [135925]

Dr. Ladyman: On 18 December 2006, the Secretary of State announced that the introduction of Active Traffic Management (ATM) including hard shoulder running on specific sections of motorway around Birmingham showed potential to provide a significant benefit to national productivity and to demonstrate high value for money. The Highways Agency is continuing to work up the detailed business case for these schemes, which will be assessed against the criteria for the Transport Innovation Fund.

Consideration on the extension of hard shoulder running to other sections of motorway around Birmingham will need to be taken on a case by case basis, in the light of the results of monitoring the M42 ATM pilot scheme.

Ports: Felixstowe

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the commercial impact of the new container charge imposed by the Port of Felixstowe. [135664]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 3 May 2007]*: None. This is a commercial matter for Hutchison Ports UK and its customers.

Railways: Hull

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the condition of the track between Hull and Scarborough on the possibility of running special excursion trains on that line; and if he will make a statement; [136222]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the condition of the train track running between Hull and Scarborough; and if he will make a statement. [136223]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his questions.

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE.

Railways: Passengers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what change there has been in the level of use of *(a)* the Transpennine rail route and *(b)* the London to Brighton line since 1997. [131754]

Mr. Tom Harris: The number of passengers travelling on the Transpennine rail route has grown by over 35 per cent. during the period of the new franchise between 2004 and 2007, and is forecast to increase by 34 per cent. between now and 2012.

Passenger demand on the Brighton main line has grown by just over 30 per cent. during the period between 1995 and 2003 and is expected to grow by up to 27 per cent. between 2003 and 2011.

Both routes have benefited from recent investment. Examples are the introduction of new class 185 trains on Transpennine and the replacement of the entire fleet of slam door trains on the Brighton main line.

Road Signs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost is of the electronic messaging signs of the kind being introduced on the M4 in Wiltshire. [134714]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency is introducing two types of electronic message signs on the M4 in Wiltshire. These are the Motorway Signal Mark 3 (MS3) and Motorway Signal Mark 4 (MS4).

The cost of each sign type installed on the scheme in Wiltshire includes the cost of the sign and supporting structure. These are as follows:

Sign type	*Cost (£)*
MS3	67,320
MS4	50,800

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* electronic messaging signs and *(b)* electronic variable messaging signs the Highways Agency has erected around its network in each of the last 10 years. [134715]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency has installed 2,034 electronic message signs around its network over the last 10 years (1997 to 2006). The number installed per year over this period, as recorded on the National Online Motorway Asset Database, is as follows:

	Number of signs installed
1997	50
1998	64
1999	294
2000	311
2001	219
2002	204

	Number of signs installed
2003	197
2004	44
2005	359
2006	50

Separate numbers for electronic message signs and electronic variable message signs are not held on our systems.

Roads: Construction

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what environmental assessments are required as part of approval for road building schemes by his Department. [134637]

Dr. Ladyman: All road schemes require an appropriate level of environmental assessment in accordance with the guidance given in volume 11 of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (available at www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/index.htm) and in the Department's Transport Analysis Guidance (available at www.webtag.org.uk). All major schemes in the Targeted Programme of Improvement and many local authority major road schemes publish an Environmental Statement in accordance with the requirements of part VA of the Highways Act 1980 (England or Wales), implementing EC Directive 85/337.

Roads: Tolls

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether road pricing schemes introduced by local authorities will incur a discount on *(a)* fuel duty and *(b)* vehicle excise duty [R]. [135982]

Dr. Ladyman: The guidance we published on 8 February for local authorities, on preparing business cases for local road pricing schemes, set out our position with regard to the use of revenues. We have concluded that any rebating of revenues back to users, such as through national taxes, would be inappropriate for local schemes. Instead local authorities should use revenues to complement other transport interventions they are planning as part of their Congestion TIF package.

Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to reinstate the requirement for local councils to have his approval before introducing 20 mph speed zones. [136224]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department encourages and supports using 20 mph zones in areas where vehicle speeds of 20 mph are considered appropriate. Local authorities are best placed to understand local needs and conditions. Therefore there are no plans to reinstate the requirement for local authorities to seek approval before introducing 20 mph speed limit zones.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has conducted or reviewed on the relative effectiveness of part-time and permanent 20 miles per hour zones; and if he will make a statement. [136225]

Dr. Ladyman: Twenty mph zones are required to have traffic calming within their perimeter and are self-enforcing. Part time 20 mph speed limits tend to cover a single road only. The choice of which option to use is a matter for individual local traffic authorities.

The Transport Research Laboratory conducted two reviews of 20 mph zones in 1996 and again in 1998. The 1996 review found that self enforcing 20 mph zones achieved an average 9 mph reduction in vehicle speeds, annual accident frequency fell by 60 per cent. and the overall reduction in child accidents fell by 67 per cent.

The 1998 review looked at wider urban speed issues and included 20 mph zones and 20 mph limits where there was lesser or no traffic calming. This found reductions in vehicle speeds were minimal when only speed limit signs were used.

No specific assessment has been made of the relative effectiveness of part-time 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms there were in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years, broken down by county. [135238]

Barry Gardiner: The table shows the number of registered holdings at June each year for 2002 to 2006 by county/unitary authority. These are the figures which are most readily available. Figures for Wales fall under the jurisdiction of the devolved authority.

Holdings in England by County/Unitary Authority

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees	301	297	297	293	302
South Teesside	254	261	268	276	284
Darlington	269	270	277	281	289
Durham CC	2,499	2,538	2,591	2,655	2,781
Northumberland	2,669	2,701	2,728	2,777	2,905
Tyneside	264	265	278	282	283
Sunderland	65	65	64	72	78
West Cumbria	2,455	2,493	2,549	2,572	2,802
East Cumbria	5,245	5,356	5,396	5,419	5,717
Halton and Warrington	276	280	280	285	282
Cheshire CC	5,135	5,216	5,226	5,265	5,351
Greater Manchester South	500	500	508	509	498
Greater Manchester North	1,257	1,253	1,241	1,254	1,257
Blackburn with Darwen	288	299	297	297	312
Blackpool	42	46	44	46	46
Lancashire CC	6,420	6,437	6,507	6,531	6,631
East Merseyside	234	239	237	237	237

Holdings in England by County/Unitary Authority

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Liverpool	14	12	11	11	13
Sefton	131	128	129	130	143
Wirral	136	137	141	145	148
Kingston-upon-Hull, City of	16	16	17	20	16
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,050	3,085	3,124	3,140	3,108
North and North East Lincolnshire	1,039	1,060	1,038	1,023	998
York	448	445	438	439	432
North Yorkshire CC	10,109	10,244	10,324	10,370	10,711
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	1,498	1,530	1,550	1,547	1,529
Sheffield	335	349	372	364	372
Bradford	968	979	997	1,002	1,002
Leeds	716	714	706	707	731
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	2,691	2,695	2,722	2,715	2,700
Derby	33	38	36	35	45
East Derbyshire	1,008	1,033	1,030	1,055	1,080
South and West Derbyshire	3,853	3,926	3,992	4,092	4,361
Nottingham	8	10	11	13	14
North Nottinghamshire	1,663	1,667	1,687	1,732	1,767
South Nottinghamshire	799	814	810	823	862
Leicester	11	14	15	19	22
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	3,548	3,589	3,638	3,661	3,880
Northamptonshire	2,529	2,537	2,577	2,659	2,800
Lincolnshire	6,571	6,553	6,565	6,615	6,742
Herefordshire, County of	4,574	4,531	4,704	4,825	5,066
Worcestershire	3,955	3,980	4,033	4,090	4,137
Warwickshire	2,950	2,971	3,037	3,070	3,074
Telford and Wrekin	364	377	386	401	395
Shropshire CC	6,205	6,274	6,349	6,524	6,544
Stoke-on-Trent	82	80	85	87	104
Staffordshire CC	6,038	6,105	6,138	6,246	6,271
Birmingham	53	55	61	63	66
Solihull	270	270	282	284	287
Coventry	82	84	91	89	102
Dudley and Sandwell	63	63	74	82	70
Walsall and Wolverhampton	89	87	88	90	95
Peterborough	240	243	247	256	275
Cambridgeshire CC	3,345	3,414	3,403	3,471	3,459
Norfolk	6,511	6,589	6,751	6,783	6,658
Suffolk	4,610	4,764	4,862	4,975	4,954
Luton	8	7	7	10	9
Bedfordshire CC	1,402	1,414	1,429	1,407	1,410
Hertfordshire	1,544	1,590	1,629	1,657	1,637
Southend-on-Sea	4	4	5	4	5
Thurrock	118	121	121	122	121
Essex CC	4,100	4,161	4,175	4,232	4,151
Inner London—West	6	10	9	14	33
Inner London—East	14	15	13	15	20
Outer London—East and North East	161	160	164	164	164
Outer London—South	173	178	161	168	177
Outer London—West and North West	118	127	132	140	137
Berkshire	1,076	1,091	1,136	1,138	1,183
Milton Keynes	233	237	240	242	274
Buckinghamshire CC	2,094	2,134	2,164	2,205	2,312
Oxfordshire	2,614	2,634	2,662	2,783	2,910
Brighton and Hove	30	30	36	38	45
East Sussex CC	3,048	3,078	3,158	3,288	3,363
Surrey	2,180	2,239	2,207	2,290	2,292
West Sussex	2,600	2,643	2,673	2,764	2,822
Portsmouth	9	9	10	10	12
Southampton	36	35	38	39	32
Hampshire CC	3,969	4,285	4,302	4,320	4,558
Isle of Wight	645	680	689	709	713
Medway	115	123	134	131	123
Kent CC	5,323	5,511	5,538	5,600	5,696
Bristol, City of	62	68	74	77	94
North and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire	2,789	2,841	2,865	2,929	3,007
Swindon	4,797	4,829	4,874	4,982	5,068
Wiltshire CC	231	231	236	231	241
Bournemouth and Poole	3,839	3,864	3,909	3,960	4,059
Dorset CC	35	36	36	44	46
Somerset	3,968	3,979	4,076	4,169	4,349
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	8,016	8,212	8,312	8,551	8,869
Plymouth	8,842	8,956	8,997	9,066	9,208
Torbay	40	40	45	46	48
Devon CC	60	56	60	63	72
England	14,794	15,001	15,199	15,596	16,033
	187,871	190,687	192,824	195,908	200,381

Source: June Agricultural Survey.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed in agriculture in each of the last 10 years, broken down by county. [135239]

Barry Gardiner: Total agricultural and horticultural employees and total labour force and by county in England for 2002 to 2006 can be found in the following tables.

These are the figures which are most readily available.

Notes:

(a) Employees are salaried managers, full, part-time and casual workers, (paid and unpaid).

(b) Since the annual June survey is now based on a sample estimates have been made for those not surveyed or not responding.

Source:

June Agricultural Survey

Total agricultural and horticultural labour force in England by county/unitary authority

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees	564	543	544	497	499
South Teesside	515	509	533	531	481
Darlington	509	[1]	501	517	473
Durham CC	4,243	4,084	4,193	4,118	4,155
Northumberland	5,892	5,707	5,536	5,535	5,521
Tyneside	470	437	470	442	427
Sunderland	172	[1]	171	184	169
West Cumbria	4,311	4,185	4,311	4,363	4,497
East Cumbria	8,956	8,711	8,839	8,777	8,825
Halton and Warrington	649	627	659	691	529
Cheshire CC	9,173	8,783	9,017	9,048	8,834
Greater Manchester South	[1]	993	1,002	903	906
Greater Manchester North	1,923	1,738	1,809	1,822	1,863
Blackburn with Darwen	362	[1]	355	347	356
Blackpool	79	[1]	[1]	68	61
Lancashire CC	12,605	11,733	12,010	11,934	11,890
East Merseyside	517	508	534	486	569
Liverpool	[1]	80	87	[1]	90
Sefton	303	288	298	296	342
Wirral	275	[1]	281	[1]	255
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	20
East Riding of Yorkshire	7,859	[1]	7,736	7,440	7,285
North and North East Lincolnshire	2,179	2,110	2,211	2,114	1,909
York	789	[1]	736	[1]	711
North Yorkshire CC	19,731	19,000	19,557	19,234	19,140
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	2,828	2,686	2,758	2,666	2,674
Sheffield	580	544	579	583	572
Bradford	1,257	1,199	1,247	1,283	1,231
Leeds	1,462	1,349	1,412	1,340	1,339
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	3,705	3,443	3,626	3,610	3,634
Derby	55	56	56	58	69
East Derbyshire	1,621	1,536	1,582	1,560	1,548
South and West Derbyshire	6,163	5,920	6,132	6,137	6,198
Nottingham	[1]	[1]	[1]	25	[1]
North Nottinghamshire	3,609	3,541	3,682	3,760	3,526
South Nottinghamshire	[1]	1,758	1,810	1,756	1,724
Leicester	[1]	[1]	49	41	24
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	6,477	6,318	6,486	6,490	6,450
Northamptonshire	4,703	4,485	4,615	4,509	4,632
Lincolnshire	17,462	16,763	16,840	16,787	16,103
Herefordshire, County of	9,048	[1]	9,370	[1]	11,024
Worcestershire	7,840	7,558	8,015	7,716	7,513
Warwickshire	6,695	6,381	6,726	6,504	6,247
Telford and Wrekin	787	748	772	800	808
Shropshire CC	10,887	10,513	10,985	11,120	11,022

Total agricultural and horticultural labour force in England by county/unitary authority

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Stoke-on-Trent	104	[1]	109	[1]	123
Staffordshire CC	10,475	9,599	9,851	10,074	9,887
Birmingham	70	73	88	139	102
Solihull	432	[1]	419	[1]	403
Coventry	138	[1]	148	[1]	138
Dudley and Sandwell	124	122	133	141	106
Walsall and Wolverhampton	180	165	168	158	162
Peterborough	573	545	567	546	564
Cambridgeshire CC	8,614	8,031	8,541	8,649	8,584
Norfolk	15,871	15,048	15,518	14,652	13,575
Suffolk	10,785	10,208	10,683	10,621	10,293
Luton	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Bedfordshire CC	3,089	2,627	2,742	2,704	2,515
Hertfordshire	3,399	3,086	3,176	3,047	3,011
Southend-on-Sea	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Thurrock	255	[1]	225	[1]	206
Essex CC	10,119	9,590	9,679	9,576	9,395
Inner London—West	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Inner London—East	59	[1]	76	[1]	63
Outer London—East and North East	445	407	457	456	424
Outer London—South	562	486	410	400	369
Outer London—West and North West	240	230	239	232	220
Berkshire	2,218	2,210	2,388	2,511	2,451
Milton Keynes	441	[1]	440	412	456
Buckinghamshire CC	3,693	3,492	3,703	3,742	3,618
Oxfordshire	5,331	5,018	5,212	5,159	5,180
Brighton and Hove	[1]	90	97	[1]	80
East Sussex CC	5,168	4,935	5,129	5,188	5,177
Surrey	4,733	4,317	4,562	4,507	4,524
West Sussex	7,556	7,172	7,376	7,490	7,409
Portsmouth	[1]	[1]	[1]	11	[1]
Southampton	49	45	48	48	39
Hampshire CC	9,078	8,850	9,343	9,157	9,015
Isle of Wight	[1]	1,683	1,685	1,652	1,607
Medway	480	471	459	[1]	659
Kent CC	15,946	14,934	16,118	15,656	16,424
Bristol, City of	105	81	93	97	82
North and N E Somerset, South Gloucester	4,376	4,156	4,290	4,302	4,284
Gloucestershire	8,215	7,845	8,192	8,138	8,110
Swindon	394	[1]	372	[1]	376
Wiltshire CC	7,072	6,716	6,870	6,899	6,847
Bournemouth and Poole	76	74	78	81	65
Dorset CC	7,427	7,273	7,707	7,657	7,493
Somerset	13,225	12,514	13,043	13,147	13,117
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	14,808	14,116	14,780	14,342	14,246
Plymouth	39	[1]	[1]	[1]	45
Torbay	81	[1]	79	90	102

Total agricultural and horticultural labour force in England by county/unitary authority

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Devon CC	23,898	22,966	23,857	23,872	23,241
England	371,824	354,381	367,490	364,891	361,027

[1] Suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings.

Note:
Data for 2002, 2003 and 2005 are compiled from a large published datasets; these are treated each year to ensure confidentiality across every geographical level from country to ward hence the differing pattern of suppression in those years.

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Total employees on registered holdings in England by county/unitary authority

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees	167	146	144	122	119
South Teesside	183	187	198	204	180
Darlington	131	[1]	120	121	110
Durham CC	978	888	923	869	845
Northumberland	2,211	2,056	1,847	1,879	1,775
Tyneside	194	176	185	154	145
Sunderland	87	[1]	90	91	83
West Cumbria	1,077	944	1,018	1,079	1,052
East Cumbria	2,090	1,956	2,035	2,075	2,004
Halton and Warrington	288	281	303	341	199
Cheshire CC	3,142	2,888	3,002	3,039	2,786
Greater Manchester South	[1]	394	382	305	317
Greater Manchester North	442	367	400	387	410
Blackburn with Darwen	66	[1]	63	60	51
Blackpool	31	[1]	[1]	19	13
Lancashire CC	4,830	4,290	4,455	4,427	4,442
East Merseyside	211	204	230	194	274
Liverpool	[1]	74	81	[1]	81
Sefton	146	139	149	154	181
Wirral	113	[1]	123	[1]	92
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	9
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,709	[1]	3,610	3,446	3,359
North and North East Lincolnshire	950	895	982	926	791
York	255	[1]	220	[1]	215
North Yorkshire CC	6,173	5,733	6,071	5,893	5,692
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	871	785	801	759	766
Sheffield	167	139	155	165	154
Bradford	258	216	221	228	225
Leeds	631	540	596	539	521
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	821	726	782	752	800
Derby	20	19	19	22	27
East Derbyshire	410	351	369	350	346
South and West Derbyshire	1,464	1,350	1,441	1,452	1,399
Nottingham	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
North Nottinghamshire	1,609	1,584	1,685	1,763	1,501
South Nottinghamshire	[1]	773	828	811	751
Leicester	[1]	[1]	34	29	12
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	2,279	2,238	2,290	2,316	2,256
Northamptonshire	1,594	1,447	1,514	1,446	1,529
Lincolnshire	9,163	8,755	8,749	8,844	8,288
Herefordshire, County of	3,578	[1]	3,807	[1]	5,279
Worcestershire	3,198	3,074	3,405	3,169	3,058
Warwickshire	3,041	2,881	3,126	2,962	2,679
Telford and Wrekin	342	320	328	314	293
Shropshire CC	3,218	3,024	3,174	3,412	3,368
Stoke-on-Trent	20	[1]	18	[1]	14
Staffordshire CC	3,277	2,654	2,767	3,015	2,938
Birmingham	19	24	36	91	46
Solihull	137	[1]	130	[1]	111
Coventry	43	[1]	42	[1]	36
Dudley and Sandwell	58	54	57	64	44
Walsall and Wolverhampton	65	61	67	66	55
Peterborough	274	258	266	266	258
Cambridgeshire CC	4,329	3,833	4,335	4,583	4,540
Norfolk	8,325	7,776	8,111	7,393	6,539
Suffolk	5,157	4,712	4,982	4,986	4,715
Luton	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Bedfordshire CC	1,339	930	1,002	1,015	835
Hertfordshire	1,638	1,343	1,391	1,286	1,237
Southend-on-Sea	[1]	0	0	0	[1]
Thurrock	116	[1]	93	[1]	86
Essex CC	5,104	4,705	4,740	4,708	4,633
Inner London—West	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Inner London—East	[1]	[1]	61	[1]	51
Outer London—East and North East	281	246	290	294	266
Outer London—South	345	275	203	206	212
Outer London—West and North West	120	114	118	109	97
Berkshire	1,125	1,146	1,267	1,338	1,294
Milton Keynes	160	[1]	158	145	155
Buckinghamshire CC	1,279	1,146	1,267	1,301	1,155
Oxfordshire	2,125	1,903	2,041	2,003	1,934
Brighton and Hove	[1]	60	62	[1]	44
East Sussex CC	1,843	1,714	1,766	1,747	1,683
Surrey	2,414	2,109	2,317	2,286	2,318
West Sussex	4,660	4,351	4,488	4,622	4,494
Portsmouth	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0
Southampton	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Hampshire CC	4,488	4,343	4,677	4,461	4,196
Isle of Wight	[1]	916	897	870	824
Medway	356	334	311	[1]	527
Kent CC	10,103	9,204	10,215	9,814	10,553
Bristol, City of	76	50	56	53	30
North and N E Somerset, South Gloucester	1,364	1,221	1,263	1,258	1,199
Gloucestershire	2,918	2,754	2,891	2,832	2,833

Total employees on registered holdings in England by county/unitary authority

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Swindon	149	[1]—	120	[1]—	118
Wiltshire CC	2,675	2,413	2,520	2,556	2,441
Bournemouth and Poole	34	30	35	35	19
Dorset CC	2,808	2,815	3,080	3,082	2,825
Somerset	4,343	3,886	4,216	4,235	4,047
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	4,323	4,010	4,350	3,924	3,827
Plymouth	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	12
Torbay	16	[1]—	12	17	27
Devon CC	6,353	5,884	6,302	6,179	5,452
England	146,585	135,293	143,059	141,868	137,252

[1] Suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings.

Note:
These data have also been treated to ensure confidentiality when cross referencing with figures complied from published datasets.

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Agriculture: Environment Protection

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to enable those in receipt of environmentally sensitive area payments and countryside stewardship to transfer to the higher level scheme of the single farm payment. [134340]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Development budget for the period 2007-13 more than doubles the funding available for agri-environment schemes.

Delivery of these schemes is the responsibility of Natural England. The Higher Level Scheme is a targeted scheme designed for those high value habitats which require complex management which can deliver significant environmental outcomes. Within a national framework, the targeting is defined at a regional level through 159 Joint Character Areas. Each area has priority targets for the management of features in that local area.

During the last year of their existing agreements, holders are contacted by Natural England, in relation to the options available. The Higher Level Scheme is a competitive scheme and not all existing ESA and CS agreements will be suitable for the scheme. For some, the Entry Level Scheme may be more appropriate.

Our planned review of progress of Environmental Stewardship this year will include the transfer of expiring agreements into Environmental Stewardship to ensure that the environmental investment made over the last 20 years of agri-environment schemes is not lost.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total budget was for agricultural support in England in each year since 2001; and what the administrative costs were of distributing it. [135246]

Barry Gardiner: The following table shows the Rural Payment Agency's (RPA) net administration cost and scheme expenditure from 2001-02 through to 2005-06, as reflected in RPA's annual report and accounts.

	Net administrative cost	£000 Expenditure
2001-02	125,953	2,682,124
2002-03	185,964	2,983,854
2003-04	198,013	3,438,529
2004-05	249,062	3,661,539
2005-06	235,723	3,737,189

The programme figures include expenditure and income for both RPA and other paying agencies.

The administrative costs are for the RPA in total and include costs of activities such as livestock tracing, the RPA change programme and support services such as finance and human resources which are not currently attributed to specific RPA activities.

Animal Welfare: Legislation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support he plans to offer the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in order to implement the operation of prosecutions for animal cruelty and offences under the new animal welfare legislation. [132594]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) has not approached my Department seeking support in relation to the conducting of prosecutions under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. In giving evidence to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee, the RSPCA estimated that the Act would lead to about an extra 100 prosecutions a year, for which they were confident they would find the necessary resources.

DEFRA fully recognises the importance of the RSPCA's contribution to animal welfare and welcomes their positive engagement in the implementation of the Act. As part of this engagement, RSPCA officers attended the recent series of training events run by DEFRA on the changes to the law that would be brought about by the Act.

Avian Influenza

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the European Commission on visits by *(a)* its staff and *(b)* the European Food Safety Agency staff to Hungary in relation to the on-going inquiry into the outbreak of avian influenza at Holton; and if he will make a statement. [135500]

Mr. Bradshaw: Throughout the outbreak of avian influenza in Holton, DEFRA liaised closely with Hungary at EU committees and through informal discussions in Brussels. Formal trilateral discussions between Hungarian officials, the European Commission and DEFRA officials began on 15 February and continued throughout the outbreak, feeding into the epidemiological investigation.

The UK will continue to work with the Commission and Hungary and will share information about any lessons learned from the case.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff from *(a)* his Department, *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* the Food Standards Agency have visited Hungary in relation to the ongoing inquiry into the outbreak of avian influenza at Holton; what plans he has to send further staff to Hungary; and if he will make a statement. [135537]

Mr. Bradshaw: Two DEFRA epidemiologists visited Hungary as part of the National Emergency Epidemiology Group's investigation into the outbreak of avian influenza in Suffolk. This followed initial discussions and exchanges of information and data with Hungarian colleagues.

At present, there are no further plans to send staff to Hungary.

British Waterways

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many businesses have contacted British Waterways to inform them that their businesses are under threat as a result of reductions in services by British Waterways. [134600]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* British Waterways does not hold a record of businesses that have contacted it on this specific matter. Such issues may be raised at local and regional stakeholder meetings which waterway businesses attend.

Carbon Emissions: Pollution Control

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of carbon emissions limiting measures in force in England and Wales. [135659]

Ian Pearson: The impact of carbon emissions reduction policies and measures were evaluated as part of the review of the UK Climate Change Programme. The main findings were published in a synthesis report "Synthesis of Climate Change Policy Evaluations" in April 2006. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Cetaceans

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for legislation prohibiting the keeping of cetaceans in captivity other than in cases which involve short-term rehabilitation with a view to a release back to the wild of injured cetaceans; and if he will make a statement. [134557]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are currently no cetaceans being kept in captivity in the UK, and other than for purposes of rehabilitation, there have not been any kept since the early 1990s. While it is not illegal to keep cetaceans in this country, the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended) aims to ensure that, should cetaceans be kept at an establishment for exhibition to the public, the establishment is licensed and the animals kept in accordance with strict standards relating to their health and welfare requirements. Those standards are set out in the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice and its supplement on the keeping of cetaceans in captivity. In addition to the requirements of the Zoo Licensing Act, all animals kept in captivity are subject to protection under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

We therefore have no plans to bring forward legislation to prohibit the keeping of cetaceans in captivity.

Chocolate: Packaging

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action has been taken on the use of excess packaging in Easter eggs. [134697]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is providing technical and financial support to retailers to help identify ways of reducing the weight of primary packaging, mainly through research and development and innovative packaging design. WRAP is also conducting research to establish public attitudes towards Easter egg, and other confectionery, packaging.

There are already examples of some supermarkets that have successfully minimised the packaging on their own brand Easter eggs while still increasing sales. My Department will continue to engage with retailers and the food industry to reduce the amount of packaging waste generated by the industry itself and by consumers.

The requirements of the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2003 (as amended) apply to all packaging and a system already exists to fine businesses for using excess packaging.

The Essential Requirements Regulations require that all packaging placed on the market in the UK should be manufactured so that volume and weight are limited to the minimum adequate amount to maintain necessary levels of safety, hygiene and consumer acceptance for the packed product. These regulations are enforced by Trading Standards officers and a number of companies have already been prosecuted for using excess packaging.

The Packaging Regulations have led to decreases in packaging used around products. However, more still needs to be done to reduce the amount of packaging and packaging waste generated. We have asked the Advisory Committee on Packaging to work with industry to find solutions to this problem and recommend ways of encouraging businesses to further reduce the amount of packaging they use.

WRAP is currently working with retailers through the 'Courtauld Commitment', a voluntary agreement which aims to halt packaging growth by 2008 and make absolute reductions in packaging waste by 2010. 13 major retailers, representing 92 per cent. of the UK grocery sector, have already signed the agreement as well as three major brands.

Each retailer signed up to the Commitment has been developing its own programme of work with WRAP to reduce packaging and packaging waste. A number of retailers have now made announcements setting their own specific performance targets on waste and other environmental issues.

Several food and drink brands and manufacturers, including some confectionery manufacturers, have now also signed up to the Courtauld Commitment. WRAP will shortly be announcing further details.

Coastal Erosion: Barton-on-Sea

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to prevent further erosion of the cliff top at Barton-on-Sea; and if he will make a statement. [135599]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA has been funding a study, being carried out by New Forest district council, into options for managing coastal erosion risk along the cliff top at Barton-on-Sea. Completion of the study, and any works which might arise from it, are a matter for the council. Such works may be eligible for grant aid from DEFRA subject to meeting national eligibility and prioritisation criteria.

Coastal Erosion: Dredging

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of dredging at sea on coastlines suffering from erosion; and if he will make a statement. [136140]

Ian Pearson: Marine minerals dredging in English waters is carefully controlled through the Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 1 May 2007 and, prior to this, by the informal "Government View" consenting procedures. Marine minerals dredging proposals are subject to environmental impact assessment and must be accompanied by an environmental statement and coastal impact study. They will only be approved if the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no significant harm to the marine environment and no harm to the coastline.

Other forms of dredging are also regulated, and any potentially negative impacts on the coastline are fully considered under the Harbour Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999 as amended by the Harbour Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2000.

Modelling and field studies on the impact of both individual offshore dredging licences and of the cumulative impacts of such licences have concluded that UK offshore dredging has not contributed to coastal erosion. There may be a potential impact on the coastline in relation to estuary and near-shore dredging for navigation purposes. However, in these cases, there is a clear need to balance economic and social imperatives of continued port operations with any environmental impact.

Dairy Farming

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many holdings with dairy cows in England and Wales there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by county. [135236]

Barry Gardiner: The following table shows the number of registered holdings in England with dairy cows from 2002 to 2006 by county/unitary authority. These are the figures which were most readily available. Figures for Wales fall under the jurisdiction of the devolved authority.

Holdings in England with dairy cows by county/unitary authority

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees	14	14	14	[1]	[1]
South Teesside	30	27	27	24	24
Darlington	21	[1]	19	[1]	15
Durham CC	142	133	131	124	123
Northumberland	100	98	93	97	102
Tyneside	[1]	[1]	6	[1]	[1]
Sunderland	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
West Cumbria	468	476	465	451	469
East Cumbria	869	875	855	835	809
Halton and Warrington	[1]	16	1	[1]	[1]
Cheshire CC	1,018	963	937	887	880
Greater Manchester South	30	25	25	24	24
Greater Manchester North	96	89	88	85	87
Blackburn With Darwen	30	[1]	28	[1]	22
Blackpool	0	0	0	0	[1]
Lancashire CC	952	914	880	847	849
East Merseyside	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Liverpool	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0
Sefton	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Wirral	18	[1]	16	[1]	15
Kingston upon Hull, City of	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
East Riding Of Yorkshire	98	[1]	96	[1]	87
North and North East Lincolnshire	[1]	[1]	12	[1]	[1]
York	21	19	19	[1]	18
North Yorkshire CC	1,121	1,070	1,012	977	965
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	105	100	100	94	92
Sheffield	42	[1]	37	[1]	34
Bradford	66	[1]	63	[1]	58
Leeds	36	[1]	31	[1]	31
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	145	133	125	125	130
Derby	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
East Derbyshire	112	106	104	106	96
South and West Derbyshire	602	562	549	543	529
Nottingham	0	0	0	0	0

Holdings in England with dairy cows by county/unitary authority

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North Nottinghamshire	76	68	64	66	62
South Nottinghamshire	[1]	[1]	45	[1]	47
Leicester	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	338	317	305	303	282
Northamptonshire	103	95	89	87	82
Lincolnshire	115	105	105	102	99
Herefordshire, County of	228	[1]	221	[1]	228
Worcestershire	221	[1]	199	187	177
Warwickshire	210	198	192	175	184
Telford and Wrekin	36	[1]	36	[1]	38
Shropshire CC	807	778	751	723	730
Stoke-on-Trent	[1]	[1]	[1]	#	14
Staffordshire CC	998	945	921	896	869
Birmingham	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Solihull	18	[1]	16	[1]	17
Coventry	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Dudley and Sandwell	[1]	[1]	5	[1]	5
Walsall and Wolverhampton	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
Peterborough	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Cambridgeshire CC	34	33	31	33	29
Norfolk	173	158	145	144	146
Suffolk	106	101	96	95	91
Luton	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0
Bedfordshire CC	31	28	27	25	25
Hertfordshire	50	41	40	39	38
Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Essex CC	74	67	63	60	56
Inner London—West	0	0	0	0	0
Inner London—East	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Outer London—East and North East	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
Outer London—South	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Outer London—West and North West	7	[1]	7	[1]	7
Berkshire	52	48	46	45	44
Milton Keynes	[1]	[1]	7	[1]	8
Buckinghamshire CC	110	99	96	101	96
Oxfordshire	138	120	116	112	118
Brighton and Hove	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
East Sussex CC	138	125	124	119	113
Surrey	92	83	82	86	77
West Sussex	158	142	138	129	130
Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	[1]
Southampton	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
Hampshire CC	242	227	221	199	198
Isle of Wight	53	[1]	51	[1]	44
Medway	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	0
Kent CC	138	129	129	128	120
Bristol, City of	0	0	0	0	[1]
North and NE Somerset, South Gloucester	328	310	306	288	279
Gloucestershire	394	380	371	335	321
Swindon	32	[1]	28	[1]	30
Wiltshire CC	498	466	438	412	401
Bournemouth and Poole	0	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Dorset CC	651	612	594	572	564
Somerset	1,075	1,019	978	941	918
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	1,101	1,029	1,019	971	956
Plymouth	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0
Torbay	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Devon CC	1,798	1,713	1,671	1,616	1,584
England	16,897	16,027	15,554	14,980	14,772

[1] Suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings.

Notes:

1. Dairy cows are cows and heifers in the dairy herd which have calved.
2. Estimates have been made for holdings not responding or not selected for the survey.
3. Data for 2002, 2003 and 2005 are compiled from a large published datasets; these are treated each year to ensure confidentiality across every geographical level from country to ward hence the differing pattern of suppression in those years.

Source:

June Agricultural Survey.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Ministers in his Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135551]

Barry Gardiner: The Government publish an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133255]

Barry Gardiner: From information held centrally, the core-Department's expenditure on hospitality in 2006-07 was £309,634.

All hospitality expenditure incurred by the Department is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety that is based on principles set out in Government Accounting.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the future funding of his Department's science budget. [136080]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's Research and Development budget has been stable over this comprehensive spending review period at £146 million per annum. The sum in future is unknown, but it is our hope and expectation that this level of funding will be maintained through the comprehensive spending review 2007 period.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135371]

Barry Gardiner: The figures for this information relate to core DEFRA and the following agencies: the Pesticides Safety Directorate, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and Animal Health.

The internal formal equal opportunities complaints procedures are on DEFRA's intranet site, and all staff have access to them.

Under the aforementioned procedures, in the last 12 months, no complaints of sexual harassment were made, investigated or upheld.

EC Environmental Policy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to implement the EU Environmental Liability Directive; whether he anticipates obstacles to its transposition; and if he will make a statement. [135363]

Ian Pearson: The Government completed the first of two public consultations (on policy options for transposing) at the end of February. Following analysis of consultation responses, the way forward is currently being considered. The second consultation (on draft legislation) is planned to take place later in the year. The Government wish to implement the Directive as soon as possible, and do not anticipate obstacles to the transposition. However, they also want to ensure optimum stakeholder engagement. Taking account of all the required processes, implementation is expected during spring 2008.

Flood Control: East Anglia

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated to sea and flood defence projects in *(a)* Great Yarmouth and *(b)* the East Anglian coastline in each of the last five years. [135177]

Ian Pearson: Since 2003, the Environment Agency has spent over £143 million on flood risk management in East Anglia (Eastern Regional Flood Defence Committee Region which encompasses Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex).

The following table shows expenditure on flood defences in Great Yarmouth and East Anglia in each financial year since 2003.

£

	Environment Agency		*DEFRA funding to local authorities*	
	Great Yarmouth	*East Anglia*	*Great Yarmouth*	*East Anglia*
2003-04	450,000	5,760,000	0	74,000
2004-05	250,000	5,160,000	0	201,000
2005-06	30,000	5,590,000	0	947,000
2006-07	270,000	5,730,000	0	0

The local authority figures do not include funding for works to protect against coastal erosion which also often provide significant benefit in terms of reducing flood risk from the sea.

Food: Labelling

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which categories of foods require an indication of country of origin on labels under statute. [135247]

Barry Gardiner: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has overall policy lead on labelling and has prepared guidance on country of origin labelling. Under general labelling rules, country of origin is required only where purchasers might otherwise be misled. However, there are specific requirements for origin information within the following food groups under European legislation:

Beef and veal
Poultry meat from third countries
Fish and shellfish (whether pre-packed or loose)
Fresh fruit and vegetables
Wine
Eggs
Honey
Olive Oil

Inland Waterways: Repairs and Maintenance

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many locks, lock gates, sluices and other pieces of machinery on the waterways were inoperable for more than 24 hours in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; and how many have been inoperable in 2007. [134601]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally. British Waterways is responsible for maintaining more than 11,000 Principal Assets (including weirs and lock chambers) and 12,000 non principal assets (such as small weirs, small culverts) across its waterways network.

While it has a well developed asset management programme, recording the condition of individual structures and the planned maintenance for them,

some assets on the 200-year-old system do fail unexpectedly. In these cases, British Waterways takes a risk-based approach to prioritising repairs. Other factors may also be taken into account, such as the need for specialist plant and machinery to be brought to a remote site, or permission from third parties for access.

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of canal and inland waterways will not be dredged in the 2007-08 financial year which were previously planned to be dredged. [134602]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* The three DEFRA-sponsored navigation authorities (British Waterways, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority) are not making any cuts to their dredging programmes for 2007-8. In fact, there may be more dredging carried out than planned. For example, the Broads Authority has put in place an enhanced dredging programme.

Lighting: Waste Disposal

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* the Environment Agency, *(c)* the Health and Safety Executive and *(d)* the waste industry regarding the safe disposal of energy efficient light bulbs; and if he will make a statement. [132759]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* From 1 July this year, energy efficient light bulbs that are separately collected will need to be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006. The regulations require producers to finance the collection, treatment and recycling of WEEE, including energy efficient light bulbs.

The WEEE regulations have been the subject of extensive consultation with all interested parties, although there have been no separate discussions on energy efficient light bulbs.

Guidance on "Best Available Treatment, Recovery and Recycling Techniques and Treatment of WEEE" is available on the DEFRA website.

Livestock Industry

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average *(a)* dairy herd and *(b)* beef herd size was in (i) the UK, (ii) England and Wales and (iii) each county in each year since 1997. [135237]

Barry Gardiner: The following tables show the average size of dairy and beef herds in England by county for 2002 to 2006. These are the figures which are most readily available. Figures for Wales fall under the jurisdiction of the devolved authority.

(a) Average dairy herd size in England by county

	Average dairy cows per herd				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees	88	91	88	[..]	[..]
South Teesside	56	59	59	64	52
Darlington	85	[..]	88	[..]	87
Durham CC	62	60	57	54	57
Northumberland	87	90	89	84	76
Tyneside	[..]	[..]	57	[..]	[..]
Sunderland	[..]	[..]	[..]	0	0
West Cumbria	82	82	80	82	85
East Cumbria	83	85	84	84	85
Halton and Warrington	[..]	107	104	[..]	[..]
Cheshire CC	111	116	114	115	113
Greater Manchester South	66	70	72	65	62
Greater Manchester North	59	61	59	61	65
Blackburn with Darwen	54	[..]	54	[..]	56
Blackpool	0	0	0	0	[..]
Lancashire CC	82	84	84	85	85
East Merseyside	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]
Liverpool	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]	0
Sefton	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]
Wirral	124	[..]	128	[..]	126
Kingston upon Hull, City of	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]
East Riding of Yorkshire	68	[..]	66	[..]	63
North And North East Lincolnshire	[..]	[..]	28	[..]	[..]
York	62	72	65	[..]	67
North Yorkshire CC	74	77	78	78	77
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	73	74	71	72	74
Sheffield	58	[..]	58	[..]	62
Bradford	63	[..]	63	[..]	67
Leeds	63	[..]	72	[..]	73
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	60	66	68	68	66
Derby	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]
East Derbyshire	57	57	59	55	52
South and West Derbyshire	76	78	78	76	76
Nottingham	0	0	0	0	0
North Nottinghamshire	90	95	96	89	91
South Nottinghamshire	[..]	[..]	81	[..]	93
Leicester	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	96	102	97	92	90
Northamptonshire	92	93	86	84	79
Lincolnshire	83	88	85	80	79
Herefordshire, County of	81	[..]	85	[..]	77
Worcestershire	77	[..]	80	76	80
Warwickshire	75	75	72	70	68

(a) Average dairy herd size in England by county

	Average dairy cows per herd				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Telford and Wrekin	101	[1]	104	[1]	107
Shropshire CC	92	95	96	95	96
Stoke-on-Trent	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	57
Staffordshire CC	83	86	87	85	87
Birmingham	[1]	[1]	20	[1]	[1]
Solihull	97	[1]	88	[1]	87
Coventry	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Dudley and Sandwell	[1]	[1]	29	[1]	40
Walsall and Wolverhampton	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
Peterborough	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Cambridgeshire CC	57	56	60	50	55
Norfolk	82	85	84	83	76
Suffolk	74	72	68	61	55
Luton	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0
Bedfordshire CC	67	74	72	77	69
Hertfordshire	78	70	65	53	59
Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Essex CC	84	90	81	80	78
Inner London-West	0	0	0	0	0
Inner London-East	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Outer London—East and North East	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
Outer London—South	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Outer London—West and North West	88	[1]	79	[1]	90
Berkshire	124	130	128	122	121
Milton Keynes	[1]	[1]	96	[1]	80
Buckinghamshire CC	103	107	108	98	92
Oxfordshire	102	108	108	103	92
Brighton and Hove	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
East Sussex CC	90	88	83	79	78
Surrey	96	103	104	93	92
West Sussex	109	113	111	113	112
Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	[1]
Southampton	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
Hampshire CC	100	108	105	106	102
Isle of Wight	82	[1]	81	[1]	80
Medway	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	0
Kent CC	91	97	91	86	91
Bristol, City of	0	0	0	0	[1]
North and N E Somerset, South Gloucester	91	94	93	95	94
Gloucestershire	90	93	91	93	90
Swindon	103	[1]	99	[1]	92
Wiltshire CC	105	107	106	107	106
Bournemouth and Poole	0	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Dorset CC	113	116	114	114	113
Somerset	99	103	102	102	103
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	75	79	78	76	77
Plymouth	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0
Torbay	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Devon CC	80	83	82	82	83
England	87	90	88	88	87

[1] Suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings. Data for 2002, 2003 and 2005 are compiled from a large published datasets; these are treated each year to ensure confidentiality across every geographical level from country to ward hence the differing pattern of suppression in those years.

Notes:

1. Dairy/beef cows are any cows or heifers that have calved including cull cows. Dairy and beef herd replacements are not included nor are cattle intended for slaughter.
2. Some holdings may have both dairy and beef cows and will therefore be included in the holding counts of both categories.
3. Estimates have been made for holdings not responding or not selected for the survey.

Source:

June Agricultural Survey

(b) Average beef herd size in England by county

	Average dairy beef per herd				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees	[1]	21	20	[1]	24
South Teesside	32	35	31	32	31
Darlington	22	[1]	24	[1]	24
Durham CC	32	33	33	32	31
Northumberland	58	59	58	56	53
Tyneside	30	[1]	36	[1]	34
Sunderland	[1]	[1]	32	[1]	27
West Cumbria	25	27	28	29	29
East Cumbria	28	29	29	30	29
Halton and Warrington	15	[1]	16	[1]	18
Cheshire CC	16	18	18	18	17
Greater Manchester South	14	15	14	15	19
Greater Manchester North	16	18	18	19	18
Blackburn with Darwen	14	[1]	14	[1]	19
Blackpool	[1]	0	0	0	0
Lancashire CC	20	22	22	22	21
East Merseyside	[1]	[1]	29	[1]	40
Liverpool	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Sefton	[1]	[1]	38	[1]	[1]
Wirral	13	[1]	17	[1]	16
Kingston upon Hull, City of	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
East Riding of Yorkshire	29	[1]	30	[1]	30
North and North East Lincolnshire	23	[1]	24	[1]	23
York	[1]	[1]	25	[1]	[1]
North Yorkshire CC	27	29	28	28	28
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	22	23	22	21	22
Sheffield	26	[1]	27	[1]	27
Bradford	19	[1]	20	[1]	21
Leeds	21	[1]	23	[1]	25

(b) Average beef herd size in England by county

	Average dairy beef per herd				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	18	19	18	18	20
Derby	[1]	[1]	14	[1]	[1]
East Derbyshire	16	18	18	18	18
South and West Derbyshire	23	25	24	24	25
Nottingham	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
North Nottinghamshire	24	25	25	24	24
South Nottinghamshire	19	[1]	20	[1]	20
Leicester	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	24	25	25	25	25
Northamptonshire	31	34	33	32	33
Lincolnshire	32	34	33	33	32
Herefordshire, County of	24	[1]	25	[1]	24
Worcestershire	18	[1]	18	18	18
Warwickshire	22	23	23	23	23
Telford and Wrekin	19	[1]	20	[1]	23
Shropshire CC	26	28	27	26	25
Stoke-on-Trent	[1]	[1]	10	[1]	30
Staffordshire CC	17	19	18	18	19
Birmingham	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Solihull	23	[1]	24	[1]	25
Coventry	[1]	[1]	17	[1]	36
Dudley and Sandwell	9	[1]	11	[1]	[1]
Walsall and Wolverhampton	17	[1]	24	[1]	21
Peterborough	[1]	[1]	18	[1]	[1]
Cambridgeshire CC	26	28	27	28	28
Norfolk	32	33	32	33	34
Suffolk	25	25	25	24	23
Luton	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Bedfordshire CC	19	20	18	18	19
Hertfordshire	29	31	30	32	27
Southend-On-Sea	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	32	[1]	32	[1]	37
Essex CC	20	23	23	23	22
Inner London-West	0	[1]	[1]	[1]	0
Inner London—East	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Outer London—East and North East	27	[1]	29	[1]	32
Outer London—South	22	[1]	25	[1]	15
Outer London—West and North West	26	[1]	28	[1]	20
Berkshire	25	28	27	27	28
Milton Keynes	15	[1]	18	[1]	18
Buckinghamshire CC	35	37	36	34	34
Oxfordshire	28	30	30	30	31
Brighton and Hove	[1]	[1]	129	[1]	[1]
East Sussex CC	21	23	22	23	23
Surrey	23	24	23	23	24

(b) Average beef herd size in England by county

	Average dairy beef per herd				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
West Sussex	24	28	29	30	29
Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	[1]
Southampton	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Hampshire CC	23	24	24	24	23
Isle of Wight	23	[1]	24	[1]	23
Medway	[1]	[1]	86	[1]	93
Kent CC	23	24	23	24	24
Bristol, City of	[1]	[1]	3	[1]	11
North and N E Somerset, South Gloucester	17	18	18	19	19
Gloucestershire	22	24	24	24	24
Swindon	18	[1]	18	[1]	17
Wiltshire CC	32	33	34	35	33
Bournemouth and Poole	[1]	[1]	14	[1]	11
Dorset CC	19	22	22	22	23
Somerset	23	26	25	25	25
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	23	25	25	24	24
Plymouth	22	[1]	24	[1]	30
Torbay	[1]	[1]	29	[1]	34
Devon CC	24	26	25	25	25
England	25	27	26	26	26

[1] Suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings. Data for 2002, 2003 and 2005 are compiled from a large published datasets; these are treated each year to ensure confidentiality across every geographical level from country to ward hence the differing pattern of suppression in those years.

Notes:

1. Dairy/beef cows are any cows or heifers that have calved including cull cows. Dairy and beef herd replacements are not included nor are cattle intended for slaughter.
2. Some holdings may have both dairy and beef cows and will therefore be included in the holding counts of both categories.
3. Estimates have been made for holdings not responding or not selected for the survey.

Source:

June Agricultural Survey

Marine Bill

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for introduction of the Marine Bill following consultation on the draft Bill. [135068]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are committed to fulfilling the 2005 manifesto commitment to introduce a Marine Bill in this Parliament. Consultation on a Marine Bill White Paper closes on 8 June. The timing of the introduction of a Bill to Parliament will depend on the responses to the consultation, further consideration within Government and the availability of parliamentary time.

Noise

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the new national ambient noise strategy. [135397]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government plan to issue a combined national noise strategy, covering both environmental and neighbourhood noise, by the end of 2007.

Oil: Pollution

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many oil spills there were at *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial premises in each of the English regions in each of the last five years. [135586]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is set out in the following table. This represents all reported incidents to the Environment Agency. In a report commissioned by the Oil Care Campaign, "An Analysis of Inland Oil and Fuel Incidents in England and Wales", published in April 2005, it was estimated that approximately a third of all such incidents are reported to the Environment Agency.

Private and domestic oil pollution incidents by region: 2000-06

	Total oil incidents	*Total domestic*	*Total commercial*	*Premises not identified*
Anglian region				
2002	289	62	196	31
2003	266	60	181	25
2004	260	55	169	36
2005	256	55	162	39
2006	196	36	135	25
Wales				
2002	72	18	43	11
2003	90	19	64	7
2004	106	24	61	21
2005	113	27	72	14
2006	99	30	50	19
Midlands region				
2002	344	46	251	47
2003	315	38	227	50
2004	272	33	202	37
2005	192	36	127	29
2006	217	35	152	30
North East region				
2002	128	18	86	24
2003	148	15	105	28
2004	145	11	120	14
2005	145	18	104	23
2006	90	15	55	20
North West region				
2002	130	21	91	18
2003	132	22	98	12
2004	77	24	39	14
2005	90	16	62	12
2006	89	12	64	13
South West region				
2002	245	59	151	35
2003	258	80	120	58
2004	206	71	111	24
2005	161	54	78	29
2006	165	58	80	27
Thames region				
2002	229	51	147	31
2003	185	35	127	23
2004	148	24	101	23
2005	191	38	114	39
2006	144	28	95	21

Source:
The Environment Agency's National Incident Recording System, May 2007.

Oil: Storage

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the oil and oil waste storage regulations. [135590]

Ian Pearson: My Department has received representations on a range of oil related issues, including the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001.

I also met with the Environment Industries Commission (EIC) late last year to discuss oil storage and other matters of concern.

Packaging: Waste Disposal

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has held with retailers on the reduction of packaging waste. [135654]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have already introduced two sets of regulations to encourage producers (including retailers) to minimise, recycle and recover packaging and reduce packaging waste.

The packaging regulations have helped to reduce the amount of packaging used around products. However, more still needs to be done to reduce the amount of packaging and packaging waste being generated in the first place. We have asked the Advisory Committee on Packaging to work with industry to find solutions to this problem and recommend ways of encouraging businesses to further reduce the amount of packaging they use.

My Department continues to engage with retailers and the food industry to reduce the amount of food and packaging waste generated by the industry itself and by consumers. In particular, DEFRA's Food Industry Sustainability Strategy (FISS), published in

April 2006, challenges the food manufacturing sector to reduce its own waste by 15-20 per cent. by 2010. 13 major grocery retailers (representing 92 per cent. of the UK grocery sector) have also signed up to the 'Courtauld Commitment', agreeing to work with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in order to:

(i) design out packaging waste growth by 2008;

(ii) deliver absolute reductions in packaging waste by March 2010; and

(iii) identify ways to tackle the problem of food waste.

Each retailer signed up to the Commitment has been developing its own programme of work with WRAP to reduce packaging and packaging waste. A number of retailers have now announced their own specific performance targets on waste and other environmental issues.

In addition, several food and drink brands and manufacturers, including some confectionery manufacturers, have now signed up to the 'Courtauld Commitment'. WRAP will shortly be announcing further details.

WRAP also provides technical and financial support to retailers and suppliers through an Innovation Fund. This is helping to identify ways of reducing the weight of primary packaging and the cost of production and transportation, mainly through research and development and innovative packaging design.

Importantly, DEFRA, working with WRAP and the devolved Administrations, has recently secured the agreement of UK retailers to reduce the overall environmental impact of their carrier bags by 25 per cent. by the end of 2008.

Paper: Recycling

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Waste and Resources Action Programme is taking to promote and provide incentives for the use of paper sludge as an alternative raw material for cement companies; [134629]

(2) how many tonnes of *(a)* recovered paper are used and *(b)* paper sludge were produced in the UK in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [134643]

(3) what steps he is taking to promote and provide incentives for the use of paper sludge as an alternative raw material for use by cement companies. [134644]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2004, 2005 and 2006, 6.2, 6.0 and 5.6 million tonnes of paper were produced in the UK respectively. In the same three years, the UK used 4.6, 4.5 and 4.2 million tonnes of recovered paper[1]. A secondary effect of the use of this recovered paper, was the creation of around 1 million tonnes per year of deinking sludge.

Neither my Department nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) are currently taking steps specifically to promote or incentivise the use of paper sludge as an alternative raw material for cement production. However, WRAP is working to create stable and efficient markets for recycled materials and products more generally in the manufacturing and construction industries.

WRAP has recently published a report on developing the opportunities for recycling paper mill sludge into new products. "A new approach to paper mill sludge" is available from WRAP's website. This report highlights several potential outlets for this material, including cement and brick additives. Further work in this area is planned in WRAP's current business plan.

[1] According to published data from the Confederation of Paper Industries.

Primates: Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* date of arrival in the UK, *(b)* species, *(c)* country of export and *(d)* cause of death was of each non-human primate imported for research purposes which was found to be dead on arrival in the UK in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2005 and (iv) 2006. [134558]

Mr. Bradshaw: Records held by DEFRA show that, in the years between 2003 and 2006, no primate imported for research was dead on arrival into the UK.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* average recorded journey time for non-human primates imported into the United Kingdom for research purposes from (i) China, (ii) Mauritius, (iii) Vietnam, (iv) Israel, (v) the Philippines and (vi) Indonesia was in (A) 2005 and (B) 2006; and if he will make a statement. [134559]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA does not hold the information requested.

Recycling

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of *(a)* domestic, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* industrial waste was recycled in England in the last year for which figures are available. [135655]

Mr. Bradshaw: 26.7 per cent. of household waste was recycled or composted in England in 2005-06[1]. Results from the most recent commercial and industrial waste survey, carried out by the Environment Agency, show that 42.2 per cent. of commercial waste and 46.7 per cent. of industrial waste were recycled or reused in 2002-03.

[1] DEFRA's municipal waste statistics 2005-06.

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Rural Development Programme 2007-13 is expected to be introduced. [135534]

Barry Gardiner: We hope to submit the new programme to the EU Commission for approval shortly. The programme will not formally begin until it has completed the approval process, which could take some six months.

We have kept Environmental Stewardship open, with new agreements made on a provisional basis, in advance of the Commission's approval. The Hill Farm Allowance has also continued this year in advance of programme approval.

Sewage: Coastal Areas

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at what locations Northumbrian Water has applied to stop UV disinfection of sewage outside the bathing season; what the duration of the bathing season in the UK is; and when he expects the Environment Agency to decide on the applications. [135723]

Ian Pearson: The applications by Northumbrian Water refer to Sewage Treatment Works at the following locations:

Location	*Receiving water*
Hendon	North Sea
Seaton Carew	North Sea
Marske	North Sea
Billingham	Cowbridge Beck (tributary of Greathorn Beck)
Howdon	River Tyne
Bran Sands	Dabholm Gut (tributary of River Tees)

The bathing season in England runs from 15 May to 30 September.

The Environment Agency is considering the applications but will not make a formal decision until the Secretary of State has decided whether or not to agree to requests that he calls them in for his own determination.

Sewage: Renewable Energy

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with water companies on using sewage for energy production. [134791]

Ian Pearson: I have had discussions on this issue with a number of water companies and am aware that there is interest and activity in the industry to find energy solutions. For instance, earlier this year Severn Trent Water outlined to me its 25 year business plan and the role energy generation from sludge is expected to play in reducing its long-term carbon footprint.

Sewers: Urban Areas

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the guidelines and performance standards are for sustainable urban drainage systems. [135724]

Ian Pearson: Sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) comprise of a variety of techniques ranging from source control to infiltration, conveyance and storage features.

The Building Regulations part H provide guidance on the incorporation of SUDS in drainage systems, stating that the preferred option for surface water drainage should be to an adequate soakaway or other infiltration system. It is clear that SUDS systems are most effectively implemented in the context of a strong planning framework. We consider this will be helpful in successfully engaging developers, prospective owners/managers of SUDS systems, and the providers of related services.

The Department of Communities and Local Government is working closely with DEFRA, and has recently strengthened the planning context through Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk and the introduction of the concept of Surface Water Management Plans. Detailed information on SUDS design and performance considerations can be found in the CIRIA publication C609 "Sustainable drainage systems—hydraulic, structural and water quality advice", published in 1992, and the CIRIA publication C697 "SUDS manual", published in 2007.

Shellfish

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the availability of new technology to detect the scrubbing of eggs from berried lobsters. [135067]

Mr. Bradshaw: I understand that both Cornwall Sea Fisheries and Eastern Joint Sea Fisheries Committees have recently trialled the technology available to detect the scrubbing of berried female lobsters. This technology was developed and successfully used in the United States for American lobsters that, although very similar, are a different species to our European lobster.

Eastern Joint Sea Fisheries Committee has an impending case in relation to their byelaw banning the landing of berried lobsters which involves this technology. It would be inappropriate for me to comment further until after the result of the court case, which my officials and I await with interest.

State Veterinary Service

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimate he has made of the cost of merging the State Veterinary Service, the Dairy Hygiene and Egg Marketing Inspectorates and the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service. [135501]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Hampton Review recommended the consolidation of DEFRA inspection and enforcement functions into seven thematic regulators, with one of those regulators being a new Executive Agency for Animal Health and Welfare, with the State Veterinary Service (SVS) at its core. DEFRA Ministers subsequently determined to merge the Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate, the Egg Marketing Inspectorate, and the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service with SVS to create such a body. The Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate joined SVS in October 2006, and the Egg Marketing Inspectorate and WLRS joined on 1 April 2007. The new enlarged agency was then re-named Animal Health.

The cost of collating the mergers was approximately £200,000 which was predominantly internal staff costs.

The indirect costs are difficult to quantify. For example, there would be an opportunity cost for staff working on the Hampton project as opposed to other areas of work, but as to what these were it would be very difficult to provide figures against.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* mass and *(b)* value of existing letterheaded stationery from the (i) State Veterinary Service, (ii) Dairy Hygiene and Egg Marketing Inspectorates and (iii) Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service; and whether the existing stationery will continue to be used after the merger of those agencies into Animal Health. [135502]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Hampton Review recommended the consolidation of DEFRA inspection and enforcement functions into seven thematic regulators, with one of those regulators being a new Executive Agency for Animal Health and Welfare, with the State Veterinary Service (SVS) at its core. DEFRA Ministers subsequently determined to merge the Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate, the Egg Marketing Inspectorate, and the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service with SVS to create such a body. The Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate joined SVS in October 2006, and the Egg Marketing Inspectorate and WLRS joined on 1 April 2007. The new enlarged agency was then re-named Animal Health.

The mass and value of extant letterheaded stationery from State Veterinary Service is:

	Amount (£)
27,0375 blanks for SVS letterheads	451.31
2,385 blanks for SVS business cards	186.03
5,450 blanks for SVS compliment slips	136.25

These are minimum quantities kept in stock under an SLA agreement between DEFRA and the printing provider to ensure a five-day turnaround for stationery orders.

EMI, DHI and WLRS have never operated with their own personalised stationery, but used standard DEFRA stocks. As a result, any stocks of pre-printed DEFRA stationery can be used up by DEFRA and therefore not wasted.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what change in staff numbers he expects to occur as a result of the merger of the State Veterinary Service, the Dairy Hygiene and Egg Marketing Inspectorates and the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service. [135503]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Hampton Review recommended the consolidation of DEFRA inspection and enforcement functions into seven thematic regulators, with one of those regulators being a new Executive Agency for Animal Health and Welfare, with the State Veterinary Service (SVS) at its core. DEFRA Ministers subsequently determined to merge the Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate, the Egg Marketing Inspectorate, and the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service with SVS to create such a body. The Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate joined SVS in October 2006, and the Egg Marketing Inspectorate and WLRS joined on 1 April 2007. The new enlarged agency was then re-named to Animal Health.

Animal Health is not planning for any changes in staff numbers as a direct result of the mergers with the Dairy Hygiene and Egg Marketing Inspectorates and the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service. Consolidation of these inspectorates is intended to achieve benefits in terms of customer focus, fewer interfaces with regulatory bodies and a more consistent approach to risk based inspection.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on outside consultants on the *(a)* rebranding and *(b)* merger of the State Veterinary Service and other bodies concerned with animal health; and if he will make a statement. [135505]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Hampton Review recommended the consolidation of DEFRA inspection and enforcement functions into seven thematic regulators, with one of those regulators being a new Executive Agency for Animal Health and Welfare, with the State Veterinary Service (SVS) at its core. DEFRA Ministers subsequently determined to merge the Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate, the Egg Marketing Inspectorate, and the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service with SVS to create such a body. The Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate joined SVS in October 2006, and the Egg Marketing Inspectorate and WLRS joined on 1 April 2007. The new enlarged agency was then re-named Animal Health.

The cost of employing outside consultants for *(a)* re-branding the enlarged Agency is approximately £40,000, and *(b)* for the merger to a single organisation is nil, since no such consultants were used in this element.

Senior Civil Servants

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of staff employed in the top five grades of his Department have *(a)* qualifications in waste management and *(b)* previous employment in the waste management sector. [132273]

Barry Gardiner: The data required are not held centrally. To collate this information would incur disproportionate costs.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Further Education: Construction

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and further education colleges are expected to take as a result of the LSC document "From Here to Sustainability: The Learning and Skills Council's strategy for Sustainable Development";

whether progress on these actions is being monitored; and what progress has been made to date. [134438]

Bill Rammell: The document "From Here to Sustainability: The Learning and Skills Council's Strategy for Sustainable Development", requires the LSC, FE colleges and other providers to take action in four key areas: positioning the sector (leadership and management); buildings and estates; curriculum (teaching and learning); and community and business. Progress is monitored by the Sustainable Development Implementation and Delivery Group, which involves college principals, sustainable development specialists, higher education representatives and national and regional bodies including Ofsted, a regional development agency and a sector skills council.

Examples of progress to date include: capital proposals from colleges now have to address sustainable development and ensure that they meet the criteria for excellent Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) ratings. An online set of resources designed to support providers on each of the four themes of the strategy will be launched by the LSC in autumn 2007. Research evidence shows that over half the providers responding to an independent study had a policy for sustainable development and many more are carrying out audits of resource use. The same study showed that 70 per cent. of respondents have embedded sustainable development into their teaching and learning programmes. The LSC is working with partners such as sector skills councils to ensure that sustainable development is embedded in the processes that determine the content of the curriculum, and the training and development of college staff. Approximately three-quarters of providers in the independent study had programmes for learner volunteering in place. Respondents had also developed networks to promote sustainable development and were sharing facilities with local groups. The LSC sponsored Green Gown Awards celebrate and share the best examples of leadership and progress in environmental sustainability.

WALES

Departments: Computers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136106]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office operates a switch off policy on all our main network computers. This is supported by a weekly check undertaken by the accommodation manager. All staff are aware of the need to shut down PCs at the end of the working day.

There are currently no technical procedures in place. However, we have asked our managing agents to install switches on all our electrical equipment, which will automatically switch off equipment accidentally left on or at stand by during the working day.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135736]

Mr. Hain: I am responsible for the Wales Office website.

The website does not record number of visitors.

The cost for:

(a) Establishing the website was £5,698.75

(b) Maintaining website £1,600 per year since 2001

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people took sick leave for stress in his Office in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135462]

Mr. Hain: No Wales Office staff have cited stress as a reason for sick absence in the last 12 months.

In line with the Department of Constitutional Affairs/Ministry of Justice policy we shall be renewing guidance to staff on identifying and tackling possible causes of stress in the workplace.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office: Finance

Mr. Francois: To ask the Solicitor-General what the budget of HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office was in each of the last five years. [136306]

The Solicitor-General: Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was created by statute on 18 April 2005. In its first financial year, 2005-06, the net total resource voted by Parliament to RCPO was £37.885 million.

In 2006-07 the net total resource that was voted in RCPO's main estimate was £37.186 million. However, during the year RCPO transferred £0.82 million to HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitors.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134831]

The Deputy Prime Minister: No complaints of bullying have been made to my Department.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people *(a)* were awarded a lump sum in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07 and *(b)* are in receipt of guaranteed income payments under each tariff level of the armed forces compensation scheme. [134529]

Derek Twigg: The number of people awarded a lump sum under the armed forces compensation scheme is shown the following table.

People awarded lump sums under the armed forces compensation scheme, by tariff[1]

		Lump sums awarded[2,3]	
Tariff level	*Tariff amount (£)*	*(i) Between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006*	*(ii) Between 1 April 2006 and 23 November 2006*[4]
1	285,000	[5]	[5]
2	201,250	[5]	[6]
3	115,000	[5]	[5]
4	86,250	[5]	[6]
5	57,500	[5]	[6]
6	46,000	[5]	5
7	34,500	[5]	[6]
8	28,750	[5]	[5]
9	22,000	[5]	[5]
10	16,500	[6]	[5]
11	11,000	[6]	5
12	8,250	25	70
13	5,250	25	75
14	2,625	25	85
15	1,050	10	50
Total	—	90	305

[1] Injury benefits are assessed against a tariff of injuries, covering different injury types such as burns, mental disorders, amputations and neurological disorders. For individual injuries and conditions there is a tariff of awards between 1-15 levels. Higher levels of the tariff reflect more severe conditions. For example, for deep second or third degree burns, those affecting 15 to 49 per cent. of whole body surface area are assessed at level six, while those affecting less than 4.5 per cent. of whole body surface area are assessed at level 12. Full details of the tariff can be found at http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/47BC60E6-F433-4DEA-9C14-4B9838FAEA10/0/AFCSTariff.pdf

[2] Claimants can make multiple claims, with multiple conditions. The table shows the highest tariff level and corresponding amount that a claimant has been awarded for a single condition.

[3] Data have been rounded to the nearest 5. Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding

[4] Data are not yet fully available for 2006-07.

[5] Refers to a value of zero.

[6] Refers to a negligible value (greater than zero, but less than five).

The number of guaranteed income payments awarded as at 23 November 2006 is shown in the following table.

Number of guaranteed income payments (GIPs) awarded as at 23 November 2006

Band[1]	*GIPs awarded*[2,3]
A	5
B	10
C	[4]
D	10
Total	25

[1] Tariff levels 1-11 are divided into four bands and they refer to the percentage used to calculate the annual amount of the award; 100 per cent. for Band A, 75 per cent. for Band B, 50 per cent. for Band C and 30 per cent. for Band D.

[2] When a GIF is awarded for an in-service injury it is deferred until the individual has left service. These figures include those with a deferred guaranteed income payment as well as those currently in receipt of one.

[3] Data have been rounded to the nearest 5. Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

[4] Refers to a value of zero.

[5] Refers to a negligible value (greater than zero, but less than five.)

Armed Forces: Education

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks in the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force who have a university degree. [135413]

Derek Twigg: The information held on the numbers who have a university degree is shown in the following table:

	Officer	*Other ranks*
Royal Navy	3,970	12
Army	7,297	0
RAF	5,381	53

The figures do not reflect the total numbers of service personnel holding degrees. The data which populates the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system was transferred from the single service legacy data systems which had differing degrees of reliability.

In particular the RAF airmen figures are not complete as the majority of airmen achieve their degrees post entry and this information would not routinely have been entered onto the RAF legacy system. The '0' for Army Other Ranks reflects the fact that Army legacy data systems only recorded this specific data for Army officers. JPA has only just been rolled out to the Army and this data field is not yet populated on the JPA system.

Updating this specific type of data on the JPA system is a now the personal responsibility of the individual serviceperson.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the agreed whole time equivalent number of his Department's staff is in each *(a)* Ministry of Defence hospital unit and *(b)* NHS trust; which of these are not provided at 100 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [132627]

Derek Twigg: The term 'whole-time equivalent' (WTE) refers to the number of full-time staff equating to the amount of 'trust protected time' that the Defence Medical Education and Training Agency (DMETA) contracts to provide to an NHS trust. 'Trust protected time', for which the trust is charged, is expressed as a percentage of the annual activity of the individual service personnel who are posted to the trust. The rest of the individual's time is designated as 'military protected time' (for which the trust does not pay) and may be used on operational deployments or training.

The WTE numbers given as follows are therefore much lower than the numbers of military medical personnel actually employed by the trusts concerned. The numbers reflect the current contractual position (which in some cases is subject to further consideration and negotiation). For example, over 120 military medical personnel are employed, in a wide range of roles, by the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust which hosts the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine. But the total number of WTE provided under contract to that trust is 20, including only one nursing WTE provided for the military managed ward at Selly Oak (although 26 military medical personnel are currently assigned there and the number is being increased).

The contracted WTE numbers of DMETA clinical staff employed at present under current contracts at each Ministry of Defence hospital unit (MDHU), rounded to the nearest whole number, is as follows:

		Number
MDHU Derriford	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	93
MDHU Frimley Park	Frimley Park Hospitals Foundation Trust	70
MDHU Northallerton	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	64
MDHU Peterborough	Peterborough and Stamford NHS Foundations Trust	110
MDHU Portsmouth	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	153

The approximate WTE number of DMETA clinical staff employed at present under current contracts at other NHS trust hospitals are as follows:

NHS trust hospital	*WTE*
Ashford and St. Peters, Chertsey	1.55
Birmingham City	1.5
Chelsea and Westminster	0.75
Chelmsford	2.0
Chichester	0.3
Coventry and Warwick	2.0
Darlington	1.5
Eastbourne	0.75
Edinburgh	0.70
Frenchay, Bristol	0.75
Good Hope	0.75
Harrogate	0.37
Heartlands, Birmingham	0.75
John Radcliffe, Oxford	3.8
Newcastle	1.0
Nottingham	0.5
Royal Devon and Exeter	0.75
Royal London	0.75
Selly Oak, Birmingham	20.0
Sheffield	0.75
Southampton	1.0
Swansea	0.75
Swindon and Marlborough	0.75
Winchester	0.75

In accordance with contractual terms and conditions, DMETA provides the resource required to achieve 100 per cent. of the WTE, either through provision of military medical personnel or through the funding of any shortfall that requires the NHS trust concerned to employ locums or agency staff. Such funding offsets the payment made by the trust for the employment of military personnel.

Armed Forces: Legal Opinion

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of the explicit right to legal advice for service personnel on the ratio of courts martial to summary hearings. [135707]

Mr. Ingram: I have taken this question to be about future policy in relation to summary discipline and the right to elect court-martial trial, and its possible effect. There have been no recent changes to the circumstances in which service personnel have the right to legal advice and no changes are planned, but my Department is considering whether measures could be introduced to improve access to such advice for those who wish to obtain it. The effect of any such measures on the number of court-martial trials will need to be considered if proposals are to be taken forward but this has not yet been assessed.

Armed Forces: Mass Media

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions service personnel were given authorisation to speak to the media between 16 April and 1 May 2007. [136077]

Des Browne: Central records are only maintained for service personnel of two-star rank and above. Between 16 April and 1 May, eight personnel of two-star rank and above were granted permission to speak to the media. Not all of these interviews or speeches have yet taken place.

Armed Forces: Members

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what instructions have been given to military personnel on communication with hon. and right hon. Members; when those instructions were last amended; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [133871]

Des Browne: Instructions on this subject are based upon the Queen's Regulations for each of the services, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. The relevant part of the regulations were last amended in 1987.

Armed Forces: Military Aircraft

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what aircraft environment tests were undertaken on RAF MR2 Nimrod aircraft prior to deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq; and whether the aircraft were tested for extremes of temperature and desert conditions. [134332]

Mr. Ingram: Military airworthiness requirements routinely require the verification of a given aircraft's

performance across a range of climatic conditions; the resulting safe operating envelope is summarised in the aircraft's Release to Service document. Prior to the deployment of the Nimrod MR2 in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the existing evidence which underpinned the Release to Service was reviewed. No additional environmental testing was undertaken.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Long Service Advance of Pay was introduced; and what maximum amount personnel were able to request in each year since 1997. [132620]

Derek Twigg: The Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) scheme is designed to assist with the purchase of a home. It has been available to the Royal Navy since 1965 and was extended to the Army and RAF on 1 August 1996.

The maximum advance available to LSAP applicants is £8,500 and this has been the case since the scheme was extended to all three services in 1996.

In addition to LSAP, MOD has negotiated key worker status to help service personnel based in areas where housing is more costly, such as London and the South East. This gives an additional series of routes for entering the housing market, with access to New build Homebuy, the Intermediate Rent Scheme and the First Time Buyers Initiative.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Armed Forces Pay Review Body *(a)* to complete its review of the X-factor and *(b)* to report to Ministers; and when he expects to publish the report. [136034]

Des Browne: The review of X-factor will be completed this year and the outcome will be included in the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body's 2008 report which is expected to be submitted to the Prime Minister and published in early 2008.

Armed Forces: Publications

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to publish joint service publications on his Department's website. [135360]

Derek Twigg: The sponsors of individual Joint Service Publications (JSPs) are responsible for their content, currency and publication. All JSPs are published internally on the Defence Intranet and where the sponsor deems it appropriate, also on the external website, www.mod.uk.

The following JSPs have been published on www.mod.uk by the relevant sponsors:

JSP 375—Health & Safety Handbook

JSP 392—Radiation Safety Handbook

JSP 397—Service Police Codes of Practice

JSP 418—MOD Sustainable Development and Environmental Manual

JSP 442—Accident Reporting System

JSP 456—Defence Catering Manual

JSP 503—Business Continuity Management

JSP 520—The Ordnance, Munitions & Explosive Safety Management System

JSP 534—Tri-Service Resettlement Manual

JSP 740—Acceptable Use Policy

JSP 815—Defence Environment and Safety Management

JSP 886—The Defence Logistics Support Chain Manual

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the Army's policy towards recruits who *(a)* have been diagnosed with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder and *(b)* have been prescribed methylphenidate drugs to combat the symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. [134333]

Derek Twigg: The Tri-Service Medical Entry guidelines, which govern entry in to the Army, state that the basic form of attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) frequently resolves with time, so recruitment may be permitted if the candidate has been free from symptoms and off all medication (including Methylphenidate drugs) for more than three years prior to application. If the basic condition is complicated with violent and/or delinquent behaviour then such candidates would normally be graded as medically unfit for enlistment as current evidence indicates that this form of the condition is much less likely to improve with time.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much each regiment contributes towards the cost of a dress uniform for non-commissioned officers. [134152]

Mr. Ingram: Mess dress is the only uniform that non-commissioned officers are not issued with. The reason for this is because it is not officially laid down in Queen's Regulations for the Army that non-commissioned officers have to wear mess dress (unlike officers). Non-commissioned officers are, however, issued with all uniforms they are required to wear in order to perform their duties.

Each corps regiment or unit in the Army has its own policy on whether it requires non-commissioned officers to have mess dress and indeed on whether assistance is available from non-public funds to help with the cost. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135151]

Derek Twigg: Statistics on the numbers of MOD civilian staff who initiated the departmental grievance procedure at the informal or formal grievance stage in the last year at unit level are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. At the grievance appeal stage, civilian staff can either appeal to a higher level of line management, or to an

independent Grievance Appeal Panel. The number of appeals heard by higher line management is not held centrally. The number of independent Grievance Appeal Panel hearings arranged between January and December 2006 was 58.

Different grievance procedures apply to service personnel. Under the Army Act 1955, the Air Force Act 1955 and the Naval Discipline Act 1957, a service person who thinks themselves wronged in any matter relating to their service may make a complaint about that matter, which may be considered by the Defence Council, unless resolved at a lower level.

Complaints not resolved informally or at Commanding Officer level (level one) are shown in the following table for the period January 2006-December 2006.

There are currently differences in the manner in which the services define and record formal complaints, which means that a direct comparison is not possible.

Formal complaints: January to December 2006

The figures show the number of formal complaints that have been raised to either Higher Authority (level two) or Service Board (level three).

	Number
Royal Navy	69
Army	202
RAF	72

In respect of the Royal Navy and the RAF, these figures differ from those which my right hon. Friend the Member for Islwyn (Mr. Touhig) gave in answer to the hon. Gentleman's similar question on 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 624-25W. This is because numbers were provided for complaints that had been considered at both levels two and three, resulting in some complaints being recorded twice.

The following table shows the correct figures for 2003-05 collated on the same basis as those for 2006.

	Royal Navy	*Army*	*RAF*
2003	126	176	120
2004	120	192	97
2005	103	194	97

Departments: ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the progress of the roll-out of Defence Information Infrastructure; and how many sites are active under increment 1. [135358]

Derek Twigg: The roll-out of the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) project is progressing satisfactorily. At the end of April 2007, the number of sites with DII(F) "live" reached 224.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Ministerial red boxes his Department bought in each of the last five years; and how much each cost; [134950]

(2) what tendering process is used to decide which company supplies Ministerial red boxes to his Department. [134953]

Derek Twigg: The MOD has purchased a total of 11 new ministerial red boxes over the past five years. The cost of each box purchased in each of the previous five years has been:

	Cost
2002	One box at £585
2003	One box at £559
2004	Two boxes at a total cost of £916
2005	Two boxes at £564 each
2006	Four boxes at £550 each and one box at £720.

The MOD purchases its ministerial red boxes from Banner Business Supplies but has on exceptional occasions approached Barrow and Gale (formerly BH Leather Ltd.) directly.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of each *(a)* private finance initiative and *(b)* public-private partnership project under consideration by his Department; and when he expects the contracts to be signed in each case. [131098]

Mr. Ingram: The status of the PFI and PPP projects currently being considered by the MOD is as follows:

Project	*Status*
Search and Rescue	Advertised OJEU
Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA)	Preferred bidder
Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME)	Preferred bidder
Future Provision of Marine Services (FPMS)	Preferred bidder
Corsham Development Project	Preferred bidder
Defence Training Review	Preferred bidder
United Kingdom Military Flying Training System	Preferred bidder

Contract signature is subject to contractual negotiations with the preferred bidder. A contract will be placed once a sufficiently mature deal is concluded. In the case of Future Provision of Marine Services and the Corsham Development Project, negotiations are at an advanced stage and it is currently expected that contracts will be placed in the summer of 2007 and late 2007 respectively.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135368]

Derek Twigg: The following table summarises the information currently available for Service and Civilian personnel for the period April 2006 to March 2007:

Service	Investigated[1]	Upheld[2]
Royal Navy	7	3
Army	14	2
Royal Air Force	7	4
MOD Civil Service	5	n/k[3]

[1] This column records the number of formal complaints of sexual harassment reported within each Service and the MoD civil service.
[2] This column records the number of formal complaints of sexual harassment upheld (i.e. where some type of action was taken against the respondent).
[3] Records of upheld complaints of sexual harassment are not currently held centrally for MoD civil service.

The Department's Unified Diversity Strategy makes clear that harassment of any kind is not tolerated in the Ministry of Defence or the armed forces. Revised complaints procedures were published in January 2007. Ongoing internal communications keep personnel informed of their rights and responsibilities.

Detainees: Iran

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether *(a)* the Royal Navy and *(b)* his Department received notice of any statement of intent from a member of the families of the returned Royal Navy personnel to sell their story to the media indirectly in circumstances where the personnel in question were refused permission to do so directly; [135642]

(2) whether any member of *(a)* the Royal Navy and *(b)* his Department made the statement to media representatives seeking to purchase the stories of the returned Royal Navy personnel that they should 'get their cheque books out'; [135643]

(3) pursuant to the statement of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 24, on Iraq, who decided which of the returned Royal Navy personnel should participate in the Department's press conference on 6 April 2007; and for what reason Leading Seaman Turney was not included; [135644]

(4) pursuant to the statement of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 25, on Iraq, which of the returned Royal Navy personnel had expressed an intention to set the record straight in relation to their behaviour while detained by speaking to the media; [135645]

(5) which *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* departmental staff were directly involved in negotiating the price for which the stories of (i) Leading Seaman Turney and (ii) Operator Mechanic Batchelor would be sold; and on what dates such negotiations took place. [135646]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him and my right hon. Friend the Member for Warley (Mr. Spellar) on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1665W.

Ex-servicemen: Education

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what education assistance programmes are available to veterans after completing military service. [135408]

Derek Twigg: The MOD assists service leavers in undertaking both higher education and vocational training, with eligibility dependent on length of service. Specifically, those who have served for more than four years are entitled to participate in MOD's Enhanced Learning Credits Scheme through which they may receive course contributions of up to £6,000; however, they must have registered during service to take advantage of this. Coaching in skills, such as job interviewing and CV writing, is provided at the point of discharge, with eligibility again dependent on service length or whether the individual has been medically discharged. Veterans may also be eligible for wider adult learning opportunities provided as part of the Government's Education and Learning programme.

Iraq and Afghanistan

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many personnel from *(a)* the Royal Navy, excluding Royal Marines and *(b)* Royal Air Force, excluding RAF regiments have served in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan as part of ground force operations in the last three years; and what pre-deployment training they were given; [116277]

(2) when he expects to answer Question 116277, on Iraq and Afghanistan, tabled on 12 December 2006 by the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife. [129026]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answers 17 January and 22 March 2007]:* Details of personnel from the Royal Navy, excluding the Royal Marines, and Royal Air Force, excluding the RAF Regiment who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of ground force operations in the last three years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Each service conducts its own pre-deployment training tailored to the theatre in which personnel are deploying and the nature of the deployment. In addition RAF and RN personnel deploying with Army units may exceptionally carry out specific pre-deployment training with those units.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many attacks on multi-national forces have been recorded in the Iraqi provinces of *(a)* Al Basrah, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan since June 2006; [132521]

(2) how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* coalition (i) civilian and (ii) military personnel were (A) killed and (B) injured in each attack in the Iraqi province of (1) Al Basrah, (2) Al Muthanna, (3) Dhi Qar and (4) Maysan since June 2006. [132522]

Des Browne: The following figures are produced from the most complete record of events within Multi National Division (South East) and are for the period between 1 June 2006 and 14 April 2007. Each record is not specifically verified and so cannot be guaranteed to be completely accurate.

The figures include incidents that involved the employment of improvised explosive devices, rockets, mortars, rocket propelled grenades, grenades, small

arms and other weapons such as petrol bombs or knives, but not the throwing of stones.

Table 1: Number of attacks on MNF by province

Province	*Attacks on MNF*
Al Muthanna	25
Basrah	1,837
Dhi Qar	36
Maysan	76

It is not possible to break down the number of persons killed and injured in each attack as requested. The total number of UK military and civilian personnel killed and injured between 1 June 2006 and 14 April 2007 is provided on the MOD website at

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm and

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htmd .

No UK civilians employed or contracted by the MOD were killed or wounded in the aforementioned attacks. We do not hold similar information on UK civilians employed or contracted by other Government Departments or by civilian contractors.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* rifles and *(b)* pistols were distributed in the Multi-National Division (South East) in Iraq before October 2005; and what steps he has taken to ensure that the equipment reached the correct recipients. [134007]

Des Browne: All UK military personnel deploy to Iraq with their own weapons (rifles and pistols as appropriate). Some specialist equipment is deployed with units and issued as required to personnel in theatre. The allocation of this equipment is recorded in detail in theatre.

The British Government provide a range of assistance to Iraq. This includes a number of security sector reform projects which are aimed at supporting and hastening the Iraqi Government's ability to build the capability of the Iraqi security forces. This has involved the gifting of vehicles infrastructure and other equipment. Gifting packages have been awarded in phases through project Osiris, with parliamentary approval being sought via a series of Minutes laid before Parliament. The quantities distributed in the Multi-National Division (South East) before October 2005, are set out as follows.

Osiris batch	*Weapons*	*Date of parliamentary approval for Osiris funding for weapons*
Osiris 1, Tranche 1, Batch 1	3,200 x AK47	1 December 2004
Osiris 1, Tranche 1, Batch 2	3,300 x AK47	15 November 2004
Osiris 1, Tranche 2	438 x Underslung grenade launchers for AK47s, 5,666 x 9mm pistol	21 November 2004
Osiris 1, Tranche 3	774 x Medium machine guns (PKMs), 1,150 x Light machine guns (RPKs)	28 January 2005

Identification information and serial numbers have been retained for military equipment, including weapons, supplied directly by HMG to the Iraqi Government. Specific procedures are in place to avoid the possibility of weapons ending up in the wrong hands. The equipment is issued by serial number, either direct to the Iraqi security forces authority, or in certain instances via the mentoring British Army unit, to the local Iraqi unit. Each Iraqi unit is required to submit a return identifying equipment holdings and UK forces seek assurances from the Iraqi security forces that the equipment provided will be handled appropriately.

Military Aid

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Joint Civil Military Co-operation group spent in each operation for supporting the regeneration of local infrastructure, economic and political structures in each year since 1997. [132265]

Mr. Ingram: The Joint Civil Military Co-operation (CIMIC) Group is a mixed Regular and Reservist tri-service unit which provides a dedicated high-readiness deployable CIMIC capability.

Funding for those projects on which the Joint CIMIC Group is engaged in each operational theatre is provided by a variety of donors, including Other Government Departments, Coalition partners and Host Nations, and there is no mechanism for collating cost data centrally. Such information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ministry of Defence Contracts

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his written statement of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 31-32WS, on Ministry of Defence (MOD) contracts, how much it cost to produce and maintain the MOD contracts bulletin in the latest period for which figures are available. [135904]

Mr. Ingram: The MOD Defence Contracts Bulletin is published at no cost to the MOD under its contract with BiP Solutions Ltd.

Nimrod Aircraft

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fuel leaks have been reported on Nimrod MR2 R1 aircraft in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [134919]

Mr. Ingram: Between the period 1 October 2006 and 31 March 2007 a total of 25 fuel leaks were reported on Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. A fuel leak is defined as any leakage of fuel from aircraft couplings, pipes or fuel tanks. These did not compromise the safety of the aircraft and were rectified under normal maintenance procedures.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* the current air-to-air refuelling system will be replaced and *(b)* the single skin fuel pipes will be replaced by double skin fuel pipes as part of the Nimrod MR2 R1 aircraft refurbishment programme. [134920]

Mr. Ingram: The MR2 and the R1 are two separate variants of the Nimrod aircraft. There are no current plans to refurbish the MR2 fleet before it is replaced by the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft. No decisions have yet been taken on whether the R1 platform will carry the replacement for the current mission system, and whether the R1 fleet will be refurbished. The air-to-air refuelling system on MRA4 is an almost entirely new design and built with only a small number of components retained from MR2 which will be re-furbished. Jacketed fuel pipes will be used selectively where it is judged to be necessary and all its fuel pipes will be newly manufactured.

Nuclear Submarines: Procurement

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account was taken of the protection of the UK's defence industrial capacity and the associated skills base as a factor in the Government's decision to replace the existing Trident nuclear submarine fleet. [135906]

Des Browne: The Government's decisions on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent, announced in December 2006 and endorsed by the House of Commons on 14 March 2007, were taken on the basis of the strategic defence needs of the country. We have made it clear that, for reasons of national sovereignty, nuclear regulation, operational effectiveness and safety, it is our intention to build the new submarines in the UK provided that industry come forward with proposals that provide the right capability at the right time and offer value for money.

Nuclear Weapons

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition he uses of vital interests in the context of protection by possession of a nuclear defence capability. [136166]

Des Browne: The White Paper "The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994) published in December 2006, makes it clear that we would only ever contemplate the use of our nuclear deterrent in extreme circumstances of self-defence. It also explains that we deliberately maintain ambiguity about precisely when, how and at what scale we might contemplate using our nuclear deterrent as we will not simplify the calculations of any potential future aggressor.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria he uses to judge the size of the minimum required capacity for a nuclear defence programme for the United Kingdom. [136176]

Des Browne: The White Paper "The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), published in December 2006, made clear that we are committed to retaining only the minimum capability necessary to deter potential aggressors.

The process by which we make an assessment of our minimum deterrent requirements is described in paragraph 4-9 of that White Paper. We make an assessment of the minimum destructive capability that we need to be able to deliver in order to outweigh the potential benefits a potential aggressor might believe they would derive from an attack on our vital interests. This includes an assessment of the decision-making processes of future potential aggressors and of defensive measures that a potential adversary might employ in an effort to reduce the impact of the UK's nuclear capability.

I am withholding precise details of this assessment process because its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capacity, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Nuclear Weapons: Treaties

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what proportion the *(a)* numbers and *(b)* explosive capacity of the UK's nuclear weapons have been reduced as a result of multilateral disarmament negotiations since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty entered into force. [134918]

Des Browne: The 1998 Strategic Defence Review White Paper (Cm 3999), set out the reduction in the total stockpile, the number of operationally available weapons and the reduction in the explosive power of the UK's nuclear weapons since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty entered into force in 1970. In December 2006, the Government announced in the White Paper, "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), that the UK will be reducing further the number of operationally available warheads to fewer than 160. This means that, since the end of the Cold War, we will have reduced the explosive power of our nuclear weapon stockpile by over 75 per cent. and we now have less than one per cent. of the total global stockpile. These reductions contribute to meeting our commitment to achieving the general and complete disarmament objectives of Article VI of the Nuclear Non Proliferation treaty.

Parachute Regiment: Stress

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment post-operational stress programme; and if he will make a statement. [131723]

Derek Twigg: Post-operational stress management forms part of the Army's duty of care and consists of four phases; Decompression, Normalisation, In-Service Support and Aftercare.

The Decompression period (phase 1) undertaken by elements of 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment (3 PARA) was spent in Cyprus. It comprised briefings and an opportunity for personnel to relax prior to returning to the UK to allow them to adjust to non-operational working conditions. The majority who undertook the decompression saw it as beneficial.

The Normalisation period (phase 2) consists of post-operational tour leave. This is now complete for 3 PARA as all individuals have returned to normal in-barracks work (or to civilian life, for de-mobilised reserves and TA). Phases 3 and 4 (In-Service Support and Aftercare) continue throughout an individual's service career and into retirement.

The unit are satisfied that the arrangements under the post-operational stress management programme are proceeding well.

RAF Innsworth

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make a decision on the future of the Royal Air Force site at Innsworth, Gloucestershire, with particular reference to the possibility of basing the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC), 1 Signals Brigade and 102 Logistics Brigade there; and if he will make a statement. [135786]

Derek Twigg: I cannot add anything further to the information I gave to the hon. Member in my letter of 13 March, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

The Innsworth site is one of several options being assessed as a potential UK base for HQ ARRC, but this work represents no more than a developing plan at this stage. Final decisions will not be made before the summer, and moves will not take place until 2009 at the earliest.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Mk 4A arming, fusing and firing system for Trident to enter service; what estimate he has made of the cost of the *(a)* development and *(b)* production of this system; and what impact he expects this procurement to have on the decision whether to refurbish or replace the Trident warhead. [132845]

Des Browne: The Mk 4A arming, fusing and firing system is a non-nuclear component being introduced into the UK warhead to overcome obsolescence and ensure the existing warhead can remain in service until the 2020s. It will enter service over the course of the next decade. The overall cost to the UK of procuring the component is included in the estimated future costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment set out in Chapter 5 of the White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cmd 6994), published in December 2006.

This procurement will not impact directly on any future decision whether to refurbish or replace the existing warhead.

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the United States Administration has sought any *(a)* technical and *(b)* diplomatic reassurance that Trident D5 nuclear missiles provided under a leasing contract by the US Navy to the UK could never be targeted at United States assets. [134984]

Des Browne: As long-standing allies with mutual defence obligations under the terms of the North Atlantic treaty, the United States Administration has not sought any technical or diplomatic reassurances that UK Trident D5 missiles would never be targeted against United States assets.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the Government agreed to participation in the life extension work on the Trident D5 missile in the Prime Minister's exchange of letters with the President of the United States in December 2005. [136175]

Des Browne: I have nothing to add to the comments I made in my letter to the Chairman of the Defence Select Committee of 9 March 2007, which were reproduced in my written ministerial statement on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1WS.

Warships: Shipbuilding

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place to ensure the retention of shipbuilding skills and expertise in the period between the construction of the last Type 45 destroyer and any future replacement for the current generation of Type 22 and Type 23 frigates. [128578]

Mr. Ingram: On current plans we expect programmes such as Type 45 and the Future Carrier to ensure the retention of shipbuilding skills and expertise in the UK shipbuilding industry well into the next decade. However, we are also looking further ahead than this. The Defence Industrial Strategy defined the key maritime industrial skills and capabilities we need to retain on shore to support the needs of the Royal Navy in the longer term. We are therefore working with the shipbuilding industry to agree the core workload required to sustain these high-end design, systems engineering and combat systems integration skills across the maritime sector.

Written Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to Question 115462, on the freemail service, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth South on 10 January 2007. [127392]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 605-06W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what representations he has received on the legality of the Mosquito ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent device; [134186]

(2) what representations he has received from civil liberties groups on the introduction of the Mosquito ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent device. [134188]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has received six representations concerning the mosquito device; four were from hon. Members on behalf of their constituents, one from a member of the public and one from a local authority. Of those six representations received, two were concerned with the legality of the device and another two questioned whether the device might breach a person's human rights. In addition, the Home Office has received eight items of correspondence referring to the mosquito device which did not take the form of a representation, but was either a question about the device itself or a request that the Home Office provide guidance on the use of these devices. The Home Office has not received representations on the mosquito device from any civil liberties groups.

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of antisocial behaviour orders in reducing antisocial behaviour. [135213]

Mr. McNulty: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) have been thoroughly examined on numerous occasions over the past few years, including by the Home Affairs Select Committee in April 2005. The effectiveness of the Government's antisocial behaviour policies has been assessed in two key independent reports published last year, by the National Audit Office and by the Youth Justice Board. Both confirmed that our twin track approach of support and enforcement is effective in protecting communities from antisocial behaviour. This is bringing results—nationally, the percentage of people who perceive high levels of antisocial behaviour has fallen from 21 per cent. in 2002-03 to 17 per cent. in 2005-06. We are due to commission an evaluation of various interventions (including ASBOs) designed to tackle antisocial behaviour. This proposed research is likely to explore what impact these interventions can have on tackling antisocial behaviour problems.

Asylum

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether applicants for asylum may be questioned by officials from the embassy of their country of origin; and whether such embassies are given information about applicants. [132516]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency does not arrange for asylum applicants with outstanding claims to be questioned by embassy officials from their country of origin. However, all asylum claimants are informed that should their claim be unsuccessful, it might be necessary for the Border and Immigration Agency to contact the authorities in their country of origin, to obtain travel documents for their journey home.

In cases where a travel document is required information is exchanged with embassies and it may also be necessary for officials from those embassies to interview an individual in order to establish their nationality. Information relating to any asylum claim is treated in confidence and is not disclosed to the authorities, unless the claimant has given his consent for the transfer of the data.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1944W, on asylum seekers, what checks he is making with international authorities in respect of convictions for offences committed abroad by applicants for the family indefinite leave to remain exercise, including applicants who have committed offences in the UK. [115776]

Mr. Byrne: The details of applicants who may be eligible for settlement under the Family Indefinite Leave to Remain Exercise are checked against the Police National Computer records, which record domestic criminal convictions. The watch lists may also indicate if an applicant is wanted for criminal activity outside of the UK. The Home Secretary has announced a review to consider how information about criminality is recorded and shared both within the UK and between the UK and other countries as well as how such information is used to protect the public.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether supporting evidence from a family member and relevant documentation was obtained in the initial assessment of the asylum claim of Mr. Subtain Bokhari. [118847]

Mr. Byrne: All information available and evidence submitted at the time were taken into account when the initial decision was made on the asylum application.

Asylum: Appeals

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the number of people who have exhausted all appeals against removal and are still in the UK *(a)* in detention and *(b)* not in detention. [132597]

Mr. Byrne: As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, no government has been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case.

Information relating to the number of persons currently held in detention who have exhausted all rights to appeal against removal is not available; it would be available by examination of individual records at only disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Deportation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Government attempts to deport asylum seekers failed due to disruptive behaviour by the passenger resulting in the airline refusing to take the passenger in *(a)* the last six months and *(b)* the last two years. [130583]

John Reid: During the past six months there have been 321 occasions when attempts to remove detained people have failed due to disruptive behaviour on their part that either did, or would have, led to the airline refusing to carry them. This figure constitutes 3.2 per cent. of the total number of removals for the period.

During the past two years there have been 1,173 occasions when attempts to remove detained people have failed due to disruptive behaviour on their part that either did, or would have led, to the airline refusing to carry them.

If a detainee cannot be removed due to their disruptive behaviour they are returned to detention and arrangements are made to remove them as soon as possible with in-flight escorts.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers had their removals from the UK stopped because their country of destination was deemed too dangerous in each of the last five years, broken down by country of destination. [132928]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is unavailable and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Removal of persons from the United Kingdom takes place in accordance with country and international law, including human rights legislation, and all immigration decisions made by the Border and Immigration Agency can currently be tested by the independent judiciary by means of recourse to the courts.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what package of assistance measures is made available by the Government to failed Iraqi asylum applicants under the UK voluntary returns programme; what changes have been made to this package since 2004; and how much has been allocated to providing such assistance in each year since 2004. [131669]

Mr. Byrne: Reintegration assistance became available for those returning to the three Northern Governorates in October 2005 with a financial package of £1,000 in kind assistance for setting up a small business, vocational training or education.

Following the introduction of the enhanced package on 1 January 2006, returnees to all areas of Iraq were then able to obtain up to £3,000 of assistance. For those returning to the three Northern Governorates, this assistance was available as in kind assistance. However, £1,500 of this amount was also available as a cash option. For those returning to other areas of Iraq, the assistance was transferred as a whole via Western Union as in kind assistance is not available.

Under the current reintegration package, the value is now £3,500. £500 is payable in cash on departure from the UK. The remaining £3,000 is available as aforementioned, depending on where in Iraq the returnee resides. Table 1 provides the amount allocated to the Voluntary Assisted Return and Re-integration Programme for all nationalities for 2004-06.

Annex A

Table 1 shows the amount allocated to provide assistance under the Voluntary Assisted Returns and Re-integration Programme (VARRP) for all nationalities for the period 2004 to 2006. Allocations for reintegration assistance are calculated for the entire scheme, not on an individual nationality basis.

£

VARRP	*Home Office*	*European Refugee Fund (ERF)*	*Total*
2004	2,907,024	2,907,024	5,814,048
2005	5,677,020	3,773,000	9,450,020
2006	10,464,905	4,386,532	14,851,437

Asylum: Somalia

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the number of failed asylum seekers from *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Somalia in the UK on 1 April. [132591]

Mr. Byrne: As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case.

Asylum: Sudan

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions asylum seekers from Darfur have been interviewed by Sudanese embassy officials; and whether officials from his Department are present at such interviews. [132514]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of refused Sudanese asylum applicants interviewed by embassy officials is not readily available. This information could be obtained only by examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost. Home Office officials were present at interviews held but only as observers.

Bronzefield Prison: Foreigners

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many convicted prisoners at HMP Bronzefield have been deported directly from the prison at the end of their sentences *(a)* in 2007 and *(b)* since the prison opened; [128498]

(2) how many convicted prisoners were deported directly from prisons in England and Wales on completion of their sentence in each of the last five years; and how many have been so deported in 2007. [128501]

Mr. Byrne: The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February 2007, providing the most accurate information currently available on the number of foreign national prisoners that have been removed from the United Kingdom. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Statistics relating to the number of individuals deported directly from prisons are not collected in the format requested and can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Burglary

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of distraction burglaries committed by Travellers. [135207]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. While the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office contain the number of distraction burglary offences recorded by the police no details are available in relation to the alleged offender.

Closed Circuit Television: Finance

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which local authorities are receiving funding for talking CCTV cameras as part of the Respect Agenda campaign; whether his Department plans to extend the scheme further; and if he will make a statement. [135529]

Mr. McNulty: The Respect Task Force is providing funding for 'Talking CCTV' in 20 areas from which proposals were received; Southwark, Barking and Dagenham, Reading, Harlow, Norwich, Ipswich, Plymouth, Gloucester, Derby, Northampton, Mansfield, Nottingham, Coventry, Sandwell, Wirral, Blackpool, Salford, Middlesbrough, South Tyneside and Darlington. The task force has no current plans to fund further roll-out to other areas.

Community Support Officers

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of police community support officers on local communities. [135175]

Mr. Coaker: In January 2006, my Department published an evaluation of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Based on national survey research and local case studies, the study showed that PCSOs provided a much wanted service and were valued by the police, the public and businesses for their visibility and accessibility.

PCSOs predominantly work in neighbourhood policing teams, where they play a crucial role and make a significant contribution. The Home Office evaluation of the National Reassurance Policing Programme showed that neighbourhood policing can reduce crime and perceptions of antisocial behaviour, and improve public confidence in the police, feelings of safety, community engagement, and police visibility. The Home Office has a continuing programme of research on the impact of neighbourhood policing, and the contribution made by PCSOs.

Curfews

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are serving a prison sentence under home detention curfew. [133415]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On 20 April 2007, the most recent date for which the figure is available, there were 2,354 prisoners on home detention curfew from all prisons within England and Wales

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Curfews: Costs

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of keeping a prisoner under home detention curfew was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [133414]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The average cost of electronically monitoring an offender under the Home Detention Curfew scheme is £14 per day (in the latest period for which figures are available). These figures can be found at paragraph 1.16 of the National Audit Office Report on Electronic Monitoring, published in February 2006, available at:

www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/05-06/0506800.pdf

Custodial Treatment: Courts

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prisoners have been held overnight in court cells in the last 12 months; [133988]

(2) how much has been paid to private companies to provide staffing for court cells, including payments for coping studies since 1 January 2007; [134015]

(3) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* longest and *(c)* shortest length of stay was in each court where cells have been used as temporary accommodation for prisoners since 1 January. [134128]

John Reid: All prisoners held in court cells since 1 January have been held for one night only in court accommodation.

Court cells have been used to hold a total of 77 prisoners in 2007, none in 2006.

Since 1 January 2007 NOMS has paid £120,000 (excluding VAT) to a single private contractor.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid to security firms to keep court cells open for prisoners under Operation Safeguard; and how many prisoner nights were spent in court cells. [135845]

John Reid: Use of court cells does not form part of Operation Safeguard, which is a separate agreement with the police.

Between 1 January and 30 April 2007 NOMS has paid £120,000 (excluding VAT) to a single private contractor to keep court cells available for prisoners.

Up to the end of April 2007, court cells have been used on a total of 77 occasions. One occasion means one prisoner night in a court cell.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 11 December 2006 to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes), *Official Report*, column 826W, on departmental staff, how many centrally recorded penalties were applied in each of the last five years. [116154]

John Reid: This information is not held centrally.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in his Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [131436]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in his Department who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [131560]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had their removal from the UK stopped in 2006 because their destination country was deemed too dangerous, broken down by country of origin. [134641]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is unavailable and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Removal of persons from the United Kingdom takes place in accordance with country and international law, including human rights legislation, and all immigration decisions made by the Border and Immigration Agency can currently be tested by the independent judiciary by means of recourse to the courts.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* short duration programmes, *(b)* therapeutic communities, *(c)* cognitive behaviour therapy and *(d)* twelve step programmes were delivered to people entering drug treatment programmes in the latest period for which figures are available. [135323]

Mr. Sutcliffe: During 2005-06 the number of prisoners entering each of the four types of programmes is in the following table:

	Number
SDP	5,304
TCs	366
CBT	4,096
12 Step	977
Total	10,743

Female Genital Mutilation

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for offences under the 2003 Act prohibiting female genital mutilation. [135585]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested on arrests is not available centrally. Information on arrests held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform is based on persons arrested for recorded crime ("notifiable" offences) by main offence group (i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, burglary, drugs etc.) and therefore does not identify individual offences.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices were unpaid *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in Gloucestershire in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [133460]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: The latest information collected by RDS-OCJR on the number of fixed penalty notices issued nationally (England and Wales) for motoring offences by result is for 2004 (provisional) and given in table A. The latest information for Gloucestershire police force area is for 2003 only. This is because data on the results of fixed penalty notices are usually published a year behind due to time delays in forces receiving final information on outcome.

2004 data will be available later this year.

Under the Road Traffic Act 1991, Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) powers allow local authorities to take over responsibility for enforcing parking contraventions from the police. 2004 data on Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) from individual local authorities operating Decriminalised Parking Enforcement are given in table B.

In addition information from the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform shows that in England and Wales in 2005, of the 146,481 PNDs issued, 62,179 were registered as fines by the courts as a result of non payment of the penalty, within the 21 day suspended enforcement period. This represents 42 per cent. of the total number of PNDs issued during that year; 53 per cent. of the penalties issued were paid and 1 per cent. of recipients elected to have their cases heard in court. Of the 1,721 issued in Gloucestershire police force area 778 were fine registered, representing 45 per cent. of the total number of PNDs issued in that area. 52 per

cent. of the penalties issued in Gloucestershire were paid and 2 per cent. of recipients elected to have their cases heard in court.

Information on the outcomes of PNDs issued in 2006 will be available in the summer.

The information given above is specific to the Home Department and does not cover fixed penalty notices issued by other Government Departments and agencies.

Table A: fixed penalty notices issued for motoring offences by result within Gloucestershire police force area and England and Wales, 2003[1] and 2004[2]

	Gloucestershire		England and Wales		
	2003[1]		2003[1]		2004[2]
Result	Number of notices issued	Percentage of notices issued	Number of notices issued	Percentage of notices issued	Percentage of notices issued
Penalty paid	24,800	72	3,051,000	87	88
No further action	3,300	10	98,300	3	3
Fine registered	6,200	18	346,000	10	9
Referred to court proceedings	100	0.2	11,400	0.3	0.4
Total notices dealt with	34,400	100	3,506,000	100	100

[1] Source: Home Office publication 'Offences relating to motor vehicles England and Wales 2004, Supplementary tables' Tables 21 (a) and 21 (b) refer.
[2] Source: Home Office Statistical Bulletin Issue 05/06 'Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics England and Wales 2004' Table 6. The analysis of results (England and Wales only) of fixed penalty notices for 2004 was not completed at time of publication. The percentages shown are estimates based on the total notices issued.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Table B: penalty charge notices by result, England and Wales[1], 2004[2]

	2004	
Penalty charge notices	Number of notices issued	Percentage of notices issued
Penalty paid	4,968,000	87
Cases going for adjudication	64,500	1
Number of certificates registered	1,048,000	14
No further action[3]	1,270,000	17
Total[4]	7,341,000	100

[1] England and Wales data only. Local authorities within the County of Gloucestershire are not signed up to the scheme under the Road Traffic Act 1991 which allows local authorities outside London to apply to the Secretary of State for Transport to become a special parking area (SPA).
[2] Source: Home Office publication 'Offences relating to motor vehicles England and Wales 2004, Supplementary tables' Tables 22(a) and 22(b) refer.
[3] Where the PCN is written off, for example, the motorist cannot be traced or the PCN is cancelled due to parking attendant error or successful representation.
[4] This figure excludes notices still being processed and for some local authority areas will include those issued in the previous period but recorded as a payment in 2004.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by local authorities. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Kosovan man, five Albanian men and a Lithuanian woman recently convicted of trafficking charges following a joint investigation by Manchester and Warwickshire police will serve their sentences in the UK; and what the estimated cost is to UK public funds of their imprisonment in the UK. [132750]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* Defendants sentenced to imprisonment by UK courts, whatever their nationality, are committed to serve their sentences in UK prisons.

Foreign national prisoners can apply to serve their sentences in their home country if a prisoner transfer agreement exists. Prisoner transfer agreements are in place between the UK and Lithuania and Albania but not with Kosovo.

The average cost of a prison place in 2005-06 was £28,486 in the public sector and £33,722 in the contracted sector.

Humberside Police: Emergency Calls

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average response time was for an emergency call by the Humberside Police Force in each of the last three years. [135490]

John Reid: Data on emergency call response times for individual police forces are not compiled centrally. This is an operational matter for the chief constable of Humberside police.

Immigrants

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain awaiting decision his Department has been processing for over 13 weeks. [134084]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of indefinite leave to remain applications awaiting decision in the above category is not kept separately and could be obtained only by examination of individual cases at a disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process applications for indefinite leave to remain that are not processed within 13 weeks was in the last period for which figures are available. [134085]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency do not keep statistics on average waiting times. Performance is measured against the published service standards which can be found on the immigration website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/11464/generalgroupchargedandnonch1.xls

Immigrants: Tuberculosis

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to prevent individuals with tuberculosis from entering the country. [132740]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration Act 1971 gives Immigration Officers the power to refer people who are subject to immigration control and who are seeking entry to the United Kingdom to a medical inspector for a medical examination. The Immigration Officer may take the findings of the medical examination into account when deciding whether to admit the person to the UK.

The long-standing policy of successive Governments is that people who come from countries with a high prevalence of TB (over 40 cases of TB per 100,000 population) and who are seeking to enter the UK for more than six months, or are port asylum claimants, are routinely referred for a medical examination, which includes tuberculosis screening, on arrival at major UK ports. In addition, Immigration Officers are required to refer for medical examination anyone who appears ill, or who mentions health or illness as a reason for coming to the UK.

As stated in our recently published strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration laws, the Government have started requiring residents of some countries to have a certificate proving they are free from infectious tuberculosis before applying for a visa. Those found to have infectious TB are required to complete treatment before entry clearance to the UK is granted. This programme has so far been rolled out to cover residents of 11 countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Thailand).

Immigration

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* resident and *(b)* non-resident foreign nationals have unexpired leave to reside in the UK, broken down by category of leave; [122189]

(2) pursuant to the answer to question number 117847, on foreign nationals, whether *(a)* he has made and *(b)* whether it is possible to make an estimate of the number of foreign nationals legally resident in the UK. [122384]

John Reid: The information is not held centrally. The Border and Immigration Agency is now implementing plans to count everyone in and out of Britain.

Immigration Controls: Biometrics

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to use *(a)* proximity and *(b)* RFID chips in biometric immigration documents. [117842]

John Reid: Subject to the successful progress of any necessary legislation the biometric immigration document will have both proximity and RFID chip capability.

Immigration: Biometrics

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at what age foreign nationals will be required to register for a biometric immigration document. [122057]

John Reid: We are still considering at what age an applicant will be required to provide their fingerprints. Related discussions are under way in the European Union regarding the age at which children should have their fingerprints recorded when member states issue a biometric residence permit (which, in the UK, will be a biometric immigration document).

Immigration: Bulgaria

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian citizens who have arrived and stayed in the UK since 1 January 2007. [133591]

Mr. Byrne: Romanian and Bulgarian nationals are not subject to Immigration control following their accession to the European Union (EU) on 1 January 2007 and do not require permission to travel to the UK. As a result precise figures for the arrival and subsequent stay of Romanians and Bulgarians since Accession are not available.

The Office for National Statistics will publish results of their International Passenger Survey in July which will give an indication of movements of Bulgarians, Romanians and other EEA nationals.

Immigration: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was for processing applications for leave to remain in Northern Ireland in 2006. [133622]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency do not keep statistics on average waiting times. Performance is measured against the published service standards which can be found on the immigration website at:

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/11464/generalgroupchargedandnonchl.xls

Intelligence Services: Data Protection

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many certificates he issued under Section 28 (2) of the Data Protection Act 1998 in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* in the first four months of 2007; and how many appeals against those certificates were lodged with the National Security Appeals Panel of the Information Tribunal in each period. [135624]

Mr. McNulty: No certificate has been issued during these periods. The Information Tribunal has not notified the Home Office of any appeals lodged against certificates during the same periods.

Ketamine

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the appropriateness of the classification of Ketamine as a class C drug. [136079]

Mr. Coaker: There are no plans to review the classification of ketamine. Ketamine was brought under control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as a class C drug in January 2006, following the advice of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

Leave to Remain

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for the family indefinite leave to remain exercise *(a)* whose cases are outstanding and *(b)* whose applications have been refused have criminal convictions. [115827]

Mr. Byrne: This information could be obtained by examination of individual case records, only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the 'Family Indefinite Leave to Remain Exercise' is published in quarterly web pages and in the annual statistical bulletin 'Asylum Statistics United Kingdom'. Copies of these publications and others relating to general immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

National Identity Register: EEA Countries

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which date EEA nationals will be compelled to have their personal information recorded on the National Identity Register; and whether they will then be issued with a UK biometric identity card. [130425]

John Reid: We will start issuing identity cards to British citizens from 2009, alongside compulsory biometric immigration documents to foreign nationals from 2008. No date has yet been set but, subject to further primary legislation; it is intended that registration on the National Identity Register should eventually become compulsory for everyone aged 16 and over who is resident in the United Kingdom for more than a prescribed period and this will include European Economic Area (EEA) nationals.

Offenders: Financial Services

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to support access to fair insurance and banking products for former offenders and their families. [135842]

John Reid: The National Offender Management Service is working in partnership with the Financial Services Authority and with voluntary sector organisations to improve former offenders' access to financial services. This includes several projects around the country enabling prisoners to open basic bank accounts prior to their release, and the production of guidance for those working with offenders in custody and in the community to enable them to signpost offenders to financial services.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department plans to have with the Secretary of State for International Development to ensure that security companies are vetted to ensure they are not guilty of violations against workers in countries abroad before security contracts are awarded for the 2012 Olympics. [133921]

Mr. Caborn: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is the lead Government Department for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. Neither I nor my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State have had any specific discussions with the Secretary of State for International Development on this matter. However, my officials are maintaining a close watch on the contractual arrangements for procurement of private security services by both the Olympic Delivery Authority, which is responsible for providing the venues and infrastructure, and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, which is responsible for the preparation and staging of the event. I am pleased to note the Olympic Delivery Authority has already made a commitment to employ companies who have a good track record in human rights and have high moral and ethical standards. I fully appreciate the importance of this issue and my officials will continue to monitor the situation as appropriate.

Overseas Visitors

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EEA nationals visited the UK for less than six months in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [132931]

Mr. Byrne: The requested figures for 2004 and 2005 are in the following table.

These have been extracted from the Command Paper publication "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2005".

Those persons seeking leave to enter the United Kingdom as visitors may be granted entry for a period not exceeding of six months.

2006 figures will be published in August 2007, and may then be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom as visitors, excluding EEA nationals[1] and Switzerland, 2004-05

Number of journeys

Passengers admitted	*2004[2]*	*2005[2]*	*2004 excluding Accession States[3]*
Visitors	7,220,000	6,890,000	7,030,000
of which:			

Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom as visitors, excluding EEA nationals[1] and Switzerland, 2004-05

Passengers admitted	2004[2]	2005[2]	Number of journeys 2004 excluding Accession States[3]
Ordinary	5,650,000	5,330,000	5,520,000
Business	1,570,000	1,560,000	1,510,000

[1] Includes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May, but excludes them from this date.
[2] Provisional and subject to change.
[3] Excludes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia (countries which became part of the EEA on 1 May 2004) for the whole 2004.

Police: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Dacorum took early retirement in each of the last five years. [135330]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Police: Liverpool

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has held with Merseyside Police on the policing of events associated with Liverpool Capital of Culture 2008. [135698]

Mr. McNulty: I met the chief constable of Merseyside police to discuss the policing of events associated with Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture on 1 February. In addition, I attended a meeting on this subject in Liverpool, convened by Merseyside police, on 29 March.

Police: Public Appointments

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration his Department has given to the election of police officials. [135604]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a review of policing on 27 March this year. Led by Sir Ronnie Flanagan the review will focus on four specific areas of policing—including local accountability. We are not ruling any options in or out at this stage—we look forward to receiving Sir Ronnie Flanagan's recommendations.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people involved in the Tasker investigation have received managed moves within HM Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [136127]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The report from Ron Tasker has not yet been received by the Commissioning Officer; it is not known how many people Mr. Tasker involved in the process of his investigation therefore it is not known how many people have changed posts as a result.

Prison Service: Accountancy

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the annual accounts of HM Prison Service have been qualified in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [136118]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service accounts have been qualified once in the last 10 years.

Prison Service: Compensation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for each of the 12 payments of over £100,000 compensation paid to Prison Service staff in 2005-06 reported in the Prison Service's annual report and accounts. [135339]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Of the payments over £100,000 reported in the 2005-06 accounts, three were the result of employment tribunals, two were as a result of injuries sustained from an assault by prisoners, one related to stress/psychological injuries, one related to injuries during control and restraint training and the other five related to miscellaneous injuries at work.

The following table sets out these figures.

Prison Service payments over £100,000 reported in the 2005-06 accounts

	2005-06			2004-05		
Special Payments	Number	Amount (£000)	Average	Number	Amount (£000)	Average
Payments over £100,000						
Staff						
Assault	2	875	438	—	—	—
Other injury	7	1,803	258	5	741	148
Employment tribunal	3	454	151	2	364	182
Prisoner						
Assault	1	240	240	—	—	—
Injury	3	3,229	1,076	2	335	168
Medical negligence	2	323	162	1	1,160	1,160
Other	3	656	219	—	—	—
Total	21	7,580	2,543	10	2,580	1,638
Payments between £10,000 and £100,000						
Staff	91	2,157	24	96	2,082	23
Prisoner	39	956	25	71	1,874	26
3rd party	5	98	20	—	—	—
Payments under £10,000	3,492	5,798	2	3,001	2,560	1
Total	3,648	16,589	2,612	3,178	9,196	1,688

Prison Service: Corruption

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff at each prison establishment were dismissed in each of the last 12 months for *(a)* corruption, *(b)* trafficking drugs and other illegal contraband into the establishment, *(c)* time off due to stress-related illnesses and *(d)* making

improper expense claims; and if he will make a statement. [134705]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The public sector Prison Service does not currently hold the information centrally in the format requested. The contracted estate has been able to provide some information on the number of staff dismissed in the last 12 months, which is contained in the table. Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Number of staff dismissed in the last 12 months for corruption, trafficking drugs etc., time off due to stress-related illnesses and making improper expense claims

Prison	*Number of staff dismissed*
Ashfield	0
Bronzefield[1]	Fewer than 5 members of staff were dismissed in February 2006 for gross misconduct
Doncaster	0
Dovegate	0
Forest Bank[1]	Fewer than 5 members of staff were dismissed in March 2006 for gross misconduct
Lowdham Grange	Fewer than 5 members of staff was dismissed for corruption in April 2006
Parc	0
Peterborough[1]	A total of fewer than 5 members of staff were dismissed for gross misconduct in the months of April, July and August 2006
Altcourse, Rye Hill, Wolds[2]	Fewer than 5 members of staff were dismissed for corruption in the 12-month period

[1] Kalyx, who manage Bronzefield, Forest Bank and Peterborough, were only able to provide a total figure for gross misconduct. It was not available broken down into the specific cause.
[2] GSL have provided a collated response for all three of their contracted prisons.
Note:
Numbers are expressed as "fewer than five" in order to avoid the identification of individuals.

Prison Service: Drugs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison staff were tested for *(a)* drug dependency and *(b)* illegal drug use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [134721]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The public sector Prison Service has not tested any of its staff for drug dependency or illegal drug use in the last five years. The contracted estate has been able to provide some information, which is contained in the table. Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Number of drug tests carried out on staff in the contracted sector

Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Altcourse[1]	0	0	0	0	0
Ashfield	0	0	0	[2]—	[2]—
Bronzefield[3]	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Dovegate	0	0	0	0	200
Forest Bank	0	0	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
Lowdham Grange[5]	0	0	0	0	0
Parc	0	0	10	11	10
Peterborough[6]	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Hill[1]	0	0	0	0	0
Wolds[1]	0	0	0	0	0

[1] No drug testing of staff currently takes place at these establishments.
[2] There have been approximately 263 random drug test carried out on staff over the last two and a half years.
[3] There have been 632 random drug tests carried out on staff over the past five years.
[4] Records for drug testing on staff only go back to 2004. 13 tests have been carried out.
[5] No random drug testing takes place on staff, although there are plans to introduce it.
[6] Information not available.

Prison Service: Intimidation

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of bullying of HM Prison Service staff by *(a)* other staff and *(b)* HM Prison Service management; what steps he is taking to promote the adoption of best practice through prison service orders for tackling such bullying; and if he will make a statement. [134720]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The public sector Prison Service does not tolerate bullying in the workplace, irrespective of the grade of the perpetrator. Procedures for reporting and tackling bullying are set out in Prison Service Order (PSO) 8010 'Equal Opportunities'. An Equal Opportunities Standard is used to audit activity across the Service in this area. Procedures for formal investigation into allegations of bullying are detailed in PSO 8460 'Conduct and Discipline'. A staff diversity and equality scheme has also been launched, which outlines a continued commitment to build a workplace free from harassment, discrimination and bullying.

Prison Service: Property

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what land is owned by the Prison Service; and whether he is considering additional sites for new prisons. [135852]

John Reid: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) owns or leases land and buildings utilised by the prison operators. Additional prisoner places are currently planned at existing prisons. NOMS owns sites for potential new prisons at Maghull near Merseyside, Belmarsh in south-east London and Featherstone near Wolverhampton in the West Midlands. Potential sites for further new prisons located in the priority areas of London/Essex and South Wales, including the site already owned at Cwmbran, are currently being considered but no final decisions have been taken.

Prison Service: Security

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average *(a)* age and *(b)* experience is of those prison governors appointed with responsibility for (i) security and (ii) operations in each prison establishment where staff have been identified as trafficking drugs or other illegal contraband into prisons; and if he will make a statement; [134707]

(2) how many staff were employed in the security department at each prison establishment in *(a)* 1995, *(b)* 1997, *(c)* 2001, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* for the latest

period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [134842]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The public sector Prison Service does not centrally record details of staff in specific departments within establishments. The contracted estate has been able to provide some information on staffing levels within security departments, which is contained in the table. Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Number of staff employed in security departments of each establishment[1]

Prison	Year				
	1995	1997	2001	2005	31 March 2007
Altcourse	Opened December 1997		7	10	10
Ashfield[2]	Opened November 1999		n/a	n/a	70
Doncaster	n/a	n/a	n/a	173	157
Dovegate	Open July 2001		23	23	n/a
Lowdham Grange	Opened February 1998		18	18	21
Parc[3]	Opened November 1997		n/a	85	83
Rye Hill	Opened January 2001		3	4	4
Wolds	4	4	4	4	4

[1] Where information is not available it is marked as n/a. The interpretation of what constitutes a 'security department' varies between contractors.
[2] For Ashfield, the total staff includes: reception, visits, security, intelligence, gate.
[3] For Parc the total staff includes: dog handlers, mandatory drug testing, control room, admissions, visits.

Prisoner Education

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1678W, on prisoner education, whether his Department has published its research into the links between resettlement factors and reconviction; and if he will make a statement. [135336]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The publication date for this research has been revised and it is now expected to be published in September 2007.

Prisoners: Females

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce the female prison population. [136391]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government want to ensure that custody is used only for women offenders who really need to be there because of the seriousness of their offending or because they present a risk. That is why we are taking forward the Women's Offending Reduction programme which focuses on improving community based services and interventions to support greater use of community sentences wherever possible. This includes the £9.15 million we are investing in new initiatives to demonstrate how an integrated multi-agency approach in the community can be more effective at tackling the multiple needs of women offenders and avoid the use of custody. We are also looking carefully at the recommendations made by Baroness Corston in her report on "Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System", which suggests further action that could be taken to prevent women with vulnerabilities ending up in prison.

Prisoners: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on housing prisoners from Wales in prisons in England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [135270]

Mr. Sutcliffe: HM Prison Service does not collect cost data for individual prisoners. Costs are collected at establishment and Prison Service level. The cost per prisoner for English prisons is shown in the following table. These cannot be disaggregated by prisoner nationality.

Cost per prisoner in English prisons

Financial year	£
1997-98	18,732
1998-99	20,361
1999-2000	21,785
2000-01	23,109
2001-02	23,451
2002-03	24,176
2003-04	25,735
2004-05	26,436
2005-06	27,207

The aforementioned figures exclude headquarters and other indirect costs.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people absconded from each Welsh prison in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [135273]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are four prisons in Wales, however there is only one prison, Frescoed prison, from which prisoners have absconded. The numbers of absconders from Frescoed, in each financial year since 1997, is listed in the following table. Figures for 2006-07 are provisional and subject to validation

Number of absconds from Frescoed prison in each financial year since 1997

	Number of absconds
1996-97	1
1997-98	7
1998-99	13
1999-2000	19
2000-01	14
2001-02	5
2002-03	8
2003-04	35
2004-05	19
2005-06	9
2006-07	9

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of the introduction of total smoking bans in those prison establishments where such a ban has been imposed on rates of positive tests for *(a)* cannabis and *(b)* hard drugs; what the impact has been on numbers of incidents of trafficking of illegal items into those prisons; and if he will make a statement. [134694]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 1 April this year, in prisons all indoor areas must be smoke free, with the exception of cells occupied solely by smokers aged 18 and over. Establishments or units holding persons under 18 must have an entirely smoke free environment within their buildings.

It is too early to report on whether rates of positive tests for drugs have changed since these measures were introduced, or whether there has been a change in the numbers of incidents of the trafficking in illegal items.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* juveniles with recognised drug-related problems secured places on accredited drug treatment programmes (i) whilst in custody and (ii) within six months of release in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [134704]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Records are not kept centrally of the numbers in prison with a serious drug problem. Instead, NOMS relies on epidemiological data which indicate, on average, around 55 per cent. of prisoners report a serious drug problem on entering prison. Based on this figure, the proportion of adults entering accredited drug treatment programmes is given in the following table.

This must be seen in context. Not all prisoners with a drug dependency require intensive treatment programmes. Many are not in prison long enough to benefit.

The young person's (juvenile) substance misuse service does not include accredited drug treatment programmes, as the YJB considers these types of programmes generally unsuitable for young people.

Figures are not available for the numbers engaged in intensive rehabilitation programmes within six months of release.

Year[1]	*Number of adult programme entrants*	*Percentage of adult programme entrants*[2]
2001-02	4,691	7
2002-03	4,386	6
2003-04	4,703	7
2004-05	7,609	11
2005-06	10,743	16

[1] Programme data are collected per financial year and prison population figures are collected per calendar year.
[2] Population data for 2001 compared with programme entrants for 2001-02 and so on.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of identified target mandatory drug tests at each prison establishment were not completed within the requisite timescale in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [135107]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Records are not kept centrally of the proportion of targeted MDT tests carried out within the advised timescales.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what HM Prison Service's policy is on the treatment of *(a)* prison support staff, *(b)* prison officers and *(c)* prison governors following the discovery of (i) illegal drugs and (ii) other unlawful contraband in their possession; and if he will make a statement. [135108]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the public sector Prison Service, the policy on the treatment of staff following the discovery of illegal drugs and other unlawful contraband in their possession is contained within Prison Service Order (PSO) 8460 'Conduct and Discipline'. A copy of the policy is available in the House of Commons Library or on the internet at:

http://pso.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/PSO_8460_conduct_and_discipline.doc

The contractors who manage prison establishments in the private sector have a range of policies on this issue.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps were taken by *(a)* HM Prison Service and *(b)* the Crown Prosecution Service as a consequence of the Copson report by the Metropolitan Police into corruption and drug-trafficking by HM Prison Service staff. [135109]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The recommendations from various reviews into the Prison Service's anti-corruption activities have been taken into account in the development of the programme of work mentioned in my response of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1518W.

Refugees: Iraq

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of Iraqi refugees that have been taken in by each EU member state. [133477]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of Iraqi refugees that have been taken in by each EU member state is held by individual member states and is not collated by the Home Office.

Information on the number of applications received for asylum in Europe is published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Re-offenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the re-offending rate for people placed on drug treatment and testing orders was in each of the last three years. [134419]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The most recent re-offending rates for drug treatment and testing orders were 88.9 per cent. for those started in the first quarter of 2002, 86.3 per cent. for 2003 and 82.3 per cent. for 2004.

For more detailed information on re-offending rates please see 'Re-offending of Adults: results from the 2004 cohort'. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 06/07. The report is available on line at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

Sentencing

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Sentencing Guidelines Council on the consistency of sentencing in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [135331]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Secretary has not met with the Sentencing Guidelines Council in the last 12 months.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 placed on the Sentencing Guidelines Council a duty to have regard to the need to promote consistency in sentencing when framing or revising sentencing guidelines.

Staffing Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed to promote understanding of issues relating to *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* diversity in (i) his Department and (ii) each police force in England and Wales; and what the estimated cost is of these posts in 2006-07. [107513]

Mr. Byrne: The Department actively promotes equality and diversity in developing policies on its range of public responsibilities and in its treatment of its staff. The core Home Office, Border and Immigration Agency, HM Prison Service and Identity and Passport Service have specific teams who promote, assist and monitor the integration of equality and diversity issues into the work of the Department. The number of staff involved is set out in the following table.

Home Office	*Number of staff FTE*	*Estimated cost 2006-07 (£)*
Core Home Office (includes staff support networks)	23.9	1,627,000
IND	15.38	613,370
Prison Service (includes staff support networks)	42	2,378,000
Identity and Passport Service	5	195,656
Total	86.28	4,814,026

Terrorism Act 2000

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will consider compiling statistics on the number of people awaiting trial under the Terrorism Act 2000. [134936]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* According to figures compiled by the police service, there were 98 individuals at or awaiting trial for terrorist offences as of 31 December 2006.

Further information on those arrested, charged and awaiting trial under terrorism legislation is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/?view=Standard

I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library.

Vetting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of Criminal Records Bureau checks which failed to pick up and list criminal offences in the latest period for which figures are available. [129474]

Joan Ryan: During the Disclosure process, administered by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks are made by the CRB of an individual's personal data supplied with Disclosure applications for any criminal record (or caution, reprimand or warning) held at that time on the Police National Computer (PNC).

In the first quarter of 2007 the CRB has issued approximately 817,000 Disclosures. During that period they have identified one case where an individual was issued with a Standard Disclosure which, on subsequent investigation, did not correctly reveal that the individual had received a police caution that was recorded on the PNC. Having identified the case the CRB have issued an amended Disclosure.

Victims Fund

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much he estimates will be raised in the 2007-08 financial year for the Victims Fund from the £15 levy on fines imposed by courts for motoring offences; [132531]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the money raised for the Victims Fund which will be allocated to those injured in road crashes; [132532]

(3) which organisations he expects to receive money from the Victims Fund; and how much he estimates will be allocated to each organisation; [132533]

(4) whether he plans to extend to fixed penalty fines the £15 levy on fines imposed by courts for motoring offences; and if he will make a statement. [132534]

Mr. Sutcliffe: From 1 April 2007 anyone convicted in the criminal courts for an offence or offences committed on or after that date and ordered to pay a fine (whether or not any other penalty is imposed) will have to pay the surcharge, at a flat rate of £15, irrespective of the size of the fine.

In a full year it is expected that the surcharge on fines will raise £16 million. It is estimated that about 70 per cent. of this will come from fines on motoring offences.

Money from the surcharge will be spent on a range of services for victims of crime and witnesses. These include £3 million for witness care units, £3 million for independent domestic violence advisers, and £8 million for other support services for victims, the details of which will be announced in due course.

Another £2 million is being allocated to the Victims Fund. Money from the fund is being allocated in two phases. Under the first phase, £1¼ million will be allocated to voluntary organisations helping victims of sexual violence. Applications for funding are currently being considered, and an announcement about which organisations the money has been allocated to will be made as soon as possible. Under the second phase, the other £¾ million will be allocated to organisations helping victims of other types of crime. We will make an announcement about eligibility and how to apply in due course.

A proportion of this money will be allocated for organisations helping victims of road traffic incidents. We cannot give further details at this time, but will make further information available as soon as we can.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial provision he has made for proposed alterations to bird registration under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 following the review carried out by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [135832]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

My Department is still considering what, if any, changes need to be made to bird registration legislation following the public consultation that ended on 16 February 2007. No financial provision has been made for any proposed alterations to bird registration.

Young Offenders: Homicide

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many youths aged 18 years or under who were convicted of murder in England and Wales for each year since 1997. [133789]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows data extracted from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform in respect of convictions for murder by defendants aged 18 years or under in England and Wales from 1997 to 2005.

Number of defendants aged 18 years or under convicted of murder at all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005[1, 2]

Age	10 to 15	16 to 18	Total
1997	4	25	29
1998	—	12	12
1999	4	25	29
2000	2	21	23
2001	2	31	33
2002	1	22	23
2003	1	21	22
2004	—	26	26
2005	6	27	33

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days elapsed between arrest and sentence for persistent young offenders in each Criminal Justice Board jurisdiction in *(a)* Quarter 4 2004, *(b)* Quarter 4 2005 and *(c)* Quarter 4 2006; and if he will make a statement. [134946]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* The following table shows data extracted from the DCA PYO statistical bulletin in regard to the average number of days from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders in England and Wales by Criminal Justice Area, 2001 to 2006.

Average number of days from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders in England and Wales: by Criminal Justice Area, 2001 to 2006

Area[1]	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	91	76	70	71	69	72
Bedfordshire	76	58	51	69	81	70
Cambridgeshire	91	66	52	55	59	74
Cheshire	61	58	58	63	72	69
Cleveland	62	58	61	67	61	68
Cumbria	55	64	57	60	58	54
Derbyshire	89	85	68	70	71	73
Devon and Cornwall	60	55	52	51	56	74
Dorset	67	78	70	53	68	74
Durham	71	52	57	67	76	69
Dyfed-Powys	57	50	40	37	44	49
Essex	65	67	72	58	56	60
Gloucestershire	59	56	52	57	64	68
Greater Manchester	71	71	74	72	78	74
Gwent[2]	70	62	64	67	70	85
Hampshire	66	73	64	60	66	59
Hertfordshire	81	63	59	71	67	84
Humberside	76	85	78	67	55	67
Kent	85	64	70	71	70	82
Lancashire	83	84	60	68	72	65
Leicestershire	81	69	65	66	72	102
Lincolnshire	70	74	70	77	70	92
Merseyside	91	65	81	82	75	65
Metropolitan	100	83	77	85	86	85
Norfolk	63	72	74	58	59	85
North Wales	66	55	53	65	73	67
North Yorkshire	65	57	58	66	58	54
Northamptonshire	81	80	71	71	93	101
Northumbria	65	63	72	70	66	79
Nottinghamshire	66	66	61	81	69	52
South Wales	67	66	54	55	55	67
South Yorkshire	68	70	67	58	59	65
Staffordshire	65	51	51	58	69	80
Suffolk	77	74	40	35	39	54
Surrey	80	64	78	86	52	73
Sussex	96	65	56	67	69	64
Thames Valley	83	67	66	73	66	92
Warwickshire	61	57	61	66	57	55
West Mercia	79	63	57	73	85	75
West Midlands	91	65	59	72	64	81

Average number of days from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders in England and Wales: by Criminal Justice Area, 2001 to 2006

Area[1]	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
West Yorkshire	70	64	75	78	55	58
Wiltshire	80	48	62	64	59	78
British Transport Police	96	90	106	106	110	114
England and Wales	76	68	66	69	68	72

[1] The area classification is based on the police force that investigated the offence and entered the charge or summons details on the Police National Computer. In a small proportion of cases prosecution and court proceedings may have been in different areas.
[2] Technical problems with local data transfer to the Police National Computer may have resulted in slight inaccuracies in Gwent's figures.
Source:
DCA PYO Statistical bulletin March 2007

Young Offenders: Unemployed

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds convicted of an offence in the last three years for which figures are available were not in education, employment or training; and if he will make a statement. [135318]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data relating to the educational, employment or training status of young offenders upon conviction are not recorded centrally. However, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) has a performance indicator to ensure that 90 per cent. of all young people supervised by youth offending teams are in suitable full time education, training or employment at the end of their Order. These data are published in the YJB annual statistics and are available on their website:

www.yjb.gov.uk/

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage: Iraq

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps to protect sites of cultural significance in Iraq from further damage by looters; and if she will make a statement. [134163]

Tessa Jowell: The protection of cultural sites in Iraq is now a matter for the Government of Iraq. Nevertheless, the British Government and our forces deployed in Iraq take very seriously the need to respect, protect and preserve these sites and institutions and we do what we can to support the Government of Iraq in this. For example:

We introduced the Iraq (United Nations) Sanctions Order 2003. Among other things this made it an offence to deal in Iraqi cultural property removed from Iraq after 6 August 1990.

In September 2006, the Metropolitan Police formally returned an 11th century manuscript and an ancient Aramaic incantation bowl, confiscated from illegal traders in 2003, to the Iraqi Government.

In February 2004, the British Council hosted a "Not for Sale" conference in Geneva on the traffic of artefacts from Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond for which the Government provided £20,000 in funding.

This is in addition to the work undertaken by the British Museum and British Library, for which I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1327W.

Departments: Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by her Department with outside suppliers over the last five years. [136135]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to answer this question save at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for which Government websites she is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135718]

Mr. Lammy: My Department cannot provide all the information as requested without disproportionate cost. However costs for 2005-07 and visitor information for 2006 and a list of websites for which my Department is responsible is as follows:

Costs

My Department is responsible for 17 websites, the majority of which were developed in house using existing resources. Costs are supplied for the period 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Period	Site	Set up costs (£)	Maintenance costs (£)	Subtotal (£)
2005-06	DCMS main site and in-house sites	31,097.54	37,000	68,097.54
	Breakout	17,500	0	17,500
	Creative Economy Programme	11,337.50	1,000	12,337.50
Total maintenance costs 2005-06				97,935.04
2006-07	DCMS main site and in-house sites	23,153.38	35,993.78	59,147.16
	Breakout	0	0	0
	Creative Economy Programme	0	1,200	1,200
Total maintenance costs 2006-07				60,347.16

Visitors

Figures for Flying the Union Flag, Casino Advisory Panel and Mobility of Collections are counted as part of the main departmental website.

Figures for National Lottery Awards, Digital Television Switchover, Culture Online and Creative

Economy Programme are not included because the information could not be collated without disproportionate cost.

Unique visitor figures for the period January-December 2006

Website	Visitors
Agora	6,655
BBC Charter Review	104,034
Break Out	34,330
Communications Act 2003	42,090
Department for Culture, Media and Sport (main site)	896,599
Digital Television	188,779
Government Art Collection	[1]169,105
UK World Heritage Site	5,588
Where We Live	3,342

[1] March-December 2006

Year established, websites and web addresses

Year established	Website	URL
2005	Sponsored Bodies, Collaborative Working (Agora)	www.agora.culture.gov.uk/
2003	BBC Charter Review	www.bbccharterreview.org.uk/
2005	Break Out	http://www.culture.gov.uk/breakout/
2005	Casino Advisory Panel	www.culture.gov.uk/cap/
2003	Communications Act 2003	www.communicationsact.gov.uk/
2006	Creative Economy Programme	www.cep.culture.gov.uk
2001	Culture Online	www.cultureonline.gov.uk/
1998	DCMS (main site)	www.culture.gov.uk
2001	Digital Switchover	http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/[1]
2001	Digital Television	www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk
2004	Flying the Union Flag	www.culture.gov.uk/flagflying
2001	Government Art Collection	www.gac.culture.gov.uk
2005	Lottery 2009 shares consultation	www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk/
2005	Mobility of Collections (2005-06)	www.culture.gov.uk/mobility/
2003	National Lottery Awards	www.lottery.culture.gov.uk
2004	UK World Heritage site	www.ukworldheritage.org.uk/
2006	Where We Live	www.wherewelive.org.uk/

[1] Transferred to digitaluk in 2006

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings took place between Ministers in her Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date of each such meeting was. [131027]

Mr. Lammy: Ministers and civil servants meet a large number of people and groups in the course of their official duties.

Details of all Ministers appointments with outside interest groups from 1 January to 31 March can be found on the DCMS website at:

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference-Library/FOI-Requests/

I am also placing copies of the list in the House Libraries.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people took sick leave for stress in her Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135477]

Mr. Lammy: The Department had eight people take sick leave for stress in the last 12 months. This represented 1.5 per cent. of the total number of staff.

Gambling

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 710W, on gambling advertising, how much her Department has ring-fenced to spend on advertising the dangers of problem gambling ahead of the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005. [135821]

Mr. Caborn: None.

The Responsibility in Gambling Trust is currently developing a strategy for a national public awareness campaign to include signposting to help and information on responsible gambling. My Department is working closely with the trust on this strategy and fully supports their work in this area.

The trust has already funded an awareness campaign aimed at young people. The campaign is currently being rolled out to schools and youth clubs through children's charity TACADE.

Labour Party: Fund Raising

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether funding from *(a)* the Lottery and *(b)* her Department is being provided to any of the patrons of the Labour Party sports fundraiser to be held in July. [135565]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, DBE and Darren Campbell have both received Athlete Personal Awards under UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme, which is national lottery funded. Dame Tanni is still receiving support under the programme.

Licensing Laws

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many late licences have been *(a)* submitted and *(b)* approved since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 in (i) England and (ii) Great Yarmouth. [135197]

Mr. Woodward: We do not hold this information centrally. The Licensing Act 2003 devolved the administration of the licensing regime to individual licensing authorities, and Great Yarmouth Licensing Authority should hold information about licensed premises in their area.

However, broad estimates collated by the Department in November 2006, based on a very small sample of licensing authorities, suggested that a fifth of pubs, bars and clubs in England and Wales are licensed to sell alcohol until 11pm at the latest; roughly a third until midnight; and around another third are licensed until 1am at the latest.

Museums and Galleries: Finance

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on museums in *(a)* England and *(b)* Great Yarmouth in each of the last 30 years for which figures are available. [135198]

Mr. Lammy: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes) on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1138W in respect of expenditure back to 1997-98.

The Annual Reports of the former Department of National Heritage are in the House Library and include expenditure out-turns for museums and galleries dating back to1987-88, when museums were the responsibility of the Office of Arts and Libraries:

Central Government Expenditure Voted in Estimates: Museums and Galleries

	Out-turn (£ million)
1987-88	122
1988-89	151
1989-90	157
1990-91	182
1991-92	204
1992-93	217
1993-94	215
1994-95	225
1995-96	228
1996-97	214

The figures for 1976-77 to 1987-88 are as follows:

Total Expenditure on National Museums and Galleries; the Museums and Galleries Commission (Including Area Museum Councils); and other Museums and Galleries Funded by the Office of Arts and Libraries

	Out-turn (£ million)
1976-77	31
1977-78	34
1978-79	45
1979-80	48
1980-81	60
1981-82	65
1982-83	76
1983-84	79
1984-85	85
1985-86	92
1986-87	105
1987-88	108

Museums are a discretionary local authority service and their core funding in Great Yarmouth is a matter for the county and district councils that work in partnership to provide a museum service. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Statistical Information Service surveys local authority museums and the findings are available in its Leisure and Recreation Statistics Estimates publication that is in the House Library.

National Lottery: Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the investment returns were for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland from National Lottery funding in August 2006; and what estimate she has made of what they will be in 2007; [135932]

(2) how much the Arts Council of Northern Ireland received from the National Lottery in 2006; and how much it will receive in 2007. [135933]

Mr. Caborn: The following table shows the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's income from the National Lottery Distribution Fund for the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07; for the month of August 2006 alone and estimated figures, based on the Department's latest income projections, for 2007-08.

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

	Operated related income to nearest £1,000	*Investment income to nearest £1,000*	*Total income to nearest £1,000*
			£
Entire financial year 2005-06	6,458,000	1,565,000.00	8,023,000
August 2006	368,000	97,000.00	465,000
Entire financial year 2006-07	5,626,000	1,123,000	6,749,000
Financial year 2007-08 (estimated)	5,767,000	439,000	6,206,000

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library a copy of the agenda and minutes of the Olympic board steering group meeting held on 22 December 2005 and a copy of any presentations given at that meeting. [133638]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Board Steering Group reports to the Olympic Board, chaired jointly by me as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Mayor of London. Summaries of Olympic Board meetings are placed on the London 2012 Organising Committee website (http://www.london2012.com/en/ourvision/Olympic+Board). Minutes of the Olympic Board Steering Group are not publicly available.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the experience of the Ministry of Defence's Compulsory Drugs Testing Team in preparation for compulsory drugs testing at the 2012 Olympics. [135808]

Mr. Caborn: There have been no discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence regarding the Ministry of Defence's Compulsory Drugs Testing Programme.

The London Organising Committee for the London Olympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for delivering the anti-doping programme at the 2012 Olympics and Paralympic games, under delegation from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

LOCOG recently appointed its chief medical officer (CMO), who will be setting out the anti-doping programme in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code, as set out in the IOC's Olympic Charter.

Opera: Finance

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* companies, *(b)* theatres and *(c)* other groups involved in opera performances which receive government funding. [135485]

Mr. Lammy: The following is a list of all the companies, theatres and other groups involved in opera performances which have received Government funding in 2006-07:

Arts Council England (ACE) regularly funded organisations (RFOs):

Royal Opera House
English National Opera
Welsh National Opera
Opera North
Scottish Opera
Glyndebourne on Tour
English Touring Opera
Pimlico Opera
Birmingham Opera Company
Aldeburgh Productions
National Opera Studio
British Youth Opera
Buxton Festival
Tete a Tete Productions
The Shout.

Combined arts RFOs that present opera as part of their programmes:

South Bank Centre
Sadlers Wells

Venues which present ACE RFO funded opera (but are not specifically funded to do so):

Hall for Cornwall
Snape Maltings
Poole Arts Centre
De la Warr Pavilion
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
Buxton Opera House
Sheffield Theatres
Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal
Cambridge Arts Centre
Warwick Arts Centre
Gala Theatre, Durham
Bath Theatre Royal
Hackney Empire
Northcott Theatre Exeter
Octagon Yeovil
Malvern Theatres
Lincoln Theatre Royal
Leeds Grand Theatre
Nottingham Theatre Royal
Newcastle Theatre Royal
Lowry Centre, Salford
Alhambra Theatre Bradford
Theatre Royal Stoke
Woking Theatre
Milton Keynes Theatre
Norwich Theatre Royal
Plymouth Theatre Royal
Hippodrome Theatre Birmingham
Liverpool Empire Theatre
New Theatre Oxford
Theatre Royal Southampton
Hippodrome Theatre Bristol.

ACE grants for the arts funding for organisations running projects with both an operatic focus and an operatic element:

Carlisle Festival Ltd.
Westmorland Music Council Music Links
Unity Theatre Company
Two Moors Festival Ltd.
The Ryedale Festival Trust
Musicon
The Guild of Lillians
InterOpera
Brinkburn Music
Jenny Edwards
Grantham Operatic Society
Magdala
Northampton Festival Opera
Opera Minima
Creu Cymru-Touring Agency
Armonico Consort
Ana Garcia
Pete Wyer
The Opera Group
Scott Stroman
Troy Banarzi
Bridewell Theatre
Gogmagogs, The
Hardy Ensemble
Central London Arts Ltd.
Connaught Opera
The Hub UK Ltd.
Streetwise Opera
City Arts Trust
Ridiculusmus Theatre Company
Ruth Jarman
Felling Stage Society
Abigail Seabrook
Operamus
Sur Nandan Ensemble
Proteus
The Culture Company
Oxfordshire Council of Disabled People
Angela Clerkin
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corp.
Daisychain Productions
Gye Nyame Centre For Performing Arts
New Devon Opera
Pimlico Opera
The Paddock
Aldeburgh Music
Davió Leahy
Pegasus Opera Company
Mid Wales Opera

The Castle Players
English Touring Opera
Streetwise Opera
Corsham Festival Association.

Playing Fields: Sales

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 421W, on playing fields, how many planning applications for sites which either were too small or of the wrong shape to accommodate a playing pitch as currently defined were approved in 2005-06; what percentage of the total approved they represent; and if she will make a statement. [135826]

Mr. Caborn: Information relating to planning applications made in relation to playing field sites in 2005-06 is not yet available. We expect to publish this data in the autumn.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Arms Trade: Export Controls

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many arms export licences were issued to *(a)* India, *(b)* Bangladesh, *(c)* Tanzania, *(d)* Ghana, *(e)* Nigeria, *(f)* Uganda, *(g)* Malawi, *(h)* Indonesia, *(i)* Vietnam, *(j)* Kenya and *(k)* Mozambique in each of the last three years. [135742]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government publish detailed information on their export licensing decisions, including the number of licences issued by destination, in their Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. Copies of these are available from the Libraries of the House and at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk?servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage@c-Page&cid=1007029395474.

The 2006 Annual Report will be published in June 2007, but the quarterly reports for 2006 are currently available together with annual and quarterly reports for previous years.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136103]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Staff are reminded to shut down their desktop PCs when leaving the office. Should staff inadvertently leave their ELGAR PCs on, the device will automatically and securely close down and be put into Power Save mode after 20 minutes.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most reeent year for which figures are available. [135002]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During the last financial year the Department purchased 8,658,547 kWh from renewable sources.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what steps the Government plan to take to produce the improvements in environmental design required by the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; [135949]

(2) what consideration the Government have given to introducing differential charges in the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive in order to encourage innovation in design to encourage recycling and reuse. [135948]

Malcolm Wicks: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive encourages producers of electrical and electronic equipment to consider the design of new products to facilitate environmentally sound treatment and reprocessing when equipment reaches its end of life.

The UK has addressed this issue through Regulation 59 of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006 (SI 3289).

Energy Policy Progress Review

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Department has spent on *(a)* legal fees, *(b)* consultants, *(c)* special advisers, *(d)* administration and *(e)* other costs in relation to (i) the Government's energy review and (ii) the case in the High Court brought by Greenpeace on the energy review consultation process; and if he will make a statement. [135295]

Malcolm Wicks: To date my Department has spent approximately £1.8 million on the Energy Review, including approximately £1.6 million of consultancy and analysis.

In respect of the Greenpeace Judicial Review, Greenpeace are yet to submit their costs for the case. As such it is not possible to identify full costs at this stage.

Entertainments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the contribution of the British entertainment industry to the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [135943]

Mr. Woodward: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for the entertainment industry. This includes the creative industries, gambling, sport and tourism. The creative industries include music, television and radio, film and computer games among others.

DCMS uses data provided by the Office for National Statistics to estimate the contribution of these sectors to the UK economy. In total, DCMS sectors account for approximately 13 per cent. of the economy, of

which the creative industries are 7.3 per cent., tourism 3.5 per cent. and gambling and sport 2 per cent.

As part of DCMS' Creative Economy programme, research to assess the contribution to the economy of the creative industries was commissioned in December 2006. I expect this research to be published at the same time as the Creative Economy programme's Green Paper in June 2007.

Natural Gas

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the wholesale price of gas was in each quarter of the last 15 years; and what the total consumption of gas was in each quarter. [135998]

Malcolm Wicks: The GB gas market was inaugurated in 1996. Before then there was not a market based wholesale price of gas, as most trades were on a contractual basis between producers and British Gas. National Grid has provided information on the System Average Wholesale Price of Gas in pence per kilowatt hour (KWh) since Q2 1996, shown in the table. Gas consumption is published in table 4.1 of Energy Trends; this publication is available in the House of Commons Library.

System average wholesale gas price

Quarter	*Price (pence/KWh)*
1996	
Q2	0.442
Q3	0.459
Q4	0.543
1997	
Q1	0.438
Q2	0.382
Q3	0.327
Q4	0.486
1998	
Q1	0.373
Q2	0.318
Q3	0.382
Q4	0.441
1999	
Q1	0.325
Q2	0.310
Q3	0.288
Q4	0.402
2000	
Q1	0.444
Q2	0.569
Q3	0.519
Q4	0.800
2001	
Q1	0.905
Q2	0.700
Q3	0.553
Q4	0.735
2002	
Q1	0.633
Q2	0.404
Q3	0.403
Q4	0.613
2003	
Q1	0.699
Q2	0.588
Q3	0.505
Q4	0.904
2004	
Q1	0.804
Q2	0.689
Q3	0.801
Q4	0.927
2005	
Q1	1.192
Q2	0.998
Q3	0.957
Q4	2.000
2006	
Q1	2.155
Q2	1.135
Q3	1.101
Q4	0.978
2007	
Q1	0.746

Source:
National Grid
http:/www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/Data/EDR/After//NORD01+-+Daily+Balance+Report.htm

Natural Gas: Storage

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the natural gas storage capacity was in the UK in each of the last 15 years. [135996]

Malcolm Wicks: Great Britain's gas storage capacity since 1997 is summarised in the answer to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison) on 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1615W. Only limited information is available for the period prior to 1996-97. The following table shows the approximate total GB storage capacity for the five years prior to 1996-97:

	Approximate Capacity in 1996-97	
Facility	*GWh*	*bcm*
Avonmouth	900	0.084
Dynevor	300	0.028
Glenmavis	600	0.056
Grain	1,200	0.112
Hornsea	2,900	0.270
Partington	1,200	0.112

Facility	Approximate Capacity in 1996-97 GWh	bcm
Rough	30,300	2.818
Total	37,400	3.48

Notes:
1. Store space can be assessed in numerous ways (e.g. energy, volume, cushion gas determination, liquefied natural gas heel, etc.), so the figures given may differ from other published data.
2. GWh = Giga Watt hours; bcm = billion cubic metres.

Source:
National Grid.

Nuclear Power

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 635W, on nuclear power, what assessment he has made of the effect on the consultation on nuclear energy of publishing the White Paper on energy policy before receiving responses to the consultation. [134928]

Malcolm Wicks: We are still in the final stages of developing both the Energy White Paper and the Nuclear Consultation which will be published shortly. We will be in a position to respond once the documents have been finalised.

Nuclear Power Stations: Organs

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) pursuant to his written statement of 26 April 2007, whether the employees of any private companies working in the nuclear energy field have had tests on autopsy tissues carried out at nuclear sites; [135274]

(2) pursuant to his written statement of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 28WS, on post mortem procedures (nuclear industry), on how many individuals who were not employed at nuclear sites tests on autopsy tissues were carried out at nuclear sites; what the reasons were for these tests; and how many of those individuals were employed by *(a)* the UK Atomic Energy Agency, *(b)* the Atomic Weapons Establishment, *(c)* other Government bodies and *(d)* non-government bodies; [135275]

(3) pursuant to the written statement of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 28WS, on post mortem procedures (nuclear industry), between what dates tests were carried out on autopsy tissues at *(a)* Harwell, *(b)* the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) site at Aldermaston and *(c)* other UK Atomic Energy Authority or AWE sites; [135280]

(4) when he expects the UK Atomic Energy Authority and Atomic Weapons Establishments to have comprehensive figures about which sites retained the organs of workers who had died. [135289]

Malcolm Wicks: This question will form part of Michael Redfern's inquiry. Out of respect for the families of those who may have been affected, it would not be appropriate to speculate on the outcome of the inquiry.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to liaise with the families of workers at Harwell and Sellafield who were affected by the discovery that body parts were retained by authorities; and whether the inquiry will take evidence from them. [135290]

Malcolm Wicks: Liaison with families of employees at Harwell and Sellafield is a matter for the site licence companies at those establishments. Whether the inquiry takes evidence from the affected families is for Michael Redfern QC, who is leading the inquiry, to consider.

Royal Lancashire Society: Finance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was granted by the North West Development Agency to the Royal Lancashire Society in each of the last five years; and what the purpose was of the funding. [128599]

Margaret Hodge: The North West Development Agency (NWDA) has not given any direct funding to the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society. However, the NWDA made a financial contribution to the Royal Lancashire Show in 2003-04 through the Rural Development Programme of the Lancashire Rural Recovery Partnership. The programme provided a grant of £32,578 towards marketing costs for the Show; the staging of a Lancashire produce event; and supporting elements of additional infrastructure. Since then the NWDA has provided £1,255,000 to the Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board (LBTB) for the year 2006-07. From this, the Tourist Board granted £3,000 towards the staging of the 2006 Royal Lancashire Show, on the grounds that the Show would serve to raise the profile of the LBTB and the Lancashire Rural Tourism Initiative. The NWDA's Strategy for Tourism in England's North West identifies the Show as one of a number of events of national and international significance that take place across the region. The Show has also been identified for support in the Lancashire and Blackpool Visitor Economy Strategy 2006-16, because of its potential for further development of the visitor economy. Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board has delegated authority to invest in those projects which it believes will raise its profile. The Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society agreed to publicise Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board by promoting their logo and mentioning the Tourist Board in press releases. No funding was granted, indirectly or directly, to the Royal Lancashire Society prior to 2003.

Travel Operators: Safety

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the safety record of foreign travel operators; and what steps he has taken to enable access to that information for UK consumers. [108954]

Mr. McCartney: The Department for Trade and Industry is responsible for package travel regulations; Department of Transport has responsibility for air transport safety and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has responsibility for UK citizens abroad.

To be able to provide the information required by the hon. Member a more specific request is required. I have asked the hon. Member to write to me with specific details of her constituent's case and I will respond to her.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

China: Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1603W, on China: family planning, what the response was of the Government of China to her representations; and if she will make a statement. [134461]

Mr. McCartney: On 5 February at the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, the Chinese Government updated us on Chen Guangcheng's case. They confirmed details of his prison sentence, health and whereabouts. The Government remain deeply concerned at the circumstances of Mr. Chen's case, including a lack of openness and transparency, and problems with access to legal representation. The failure to uphold international fair trial standards in this case suggests a backward step in China's progress towards building the rule of law.

Colombia: Drugs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the amount of cocaine seized by the Colombian Government in 2006. [136383]

Dr. Howells: According to the Colombian Interior Ministry, Colombian security forces seized 130 metric tonnes of cocaine in 2006. A total of 214,135 hectares of coca cultivation was eradicated.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Speliar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in her Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136096]

Mr. Hoon: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff are instructed to switch off monitors, printers and other peripheral devices. At present computer base units must be left on, to enable remote updating of our worldwide network.

We have recently developed a strategy which takes advantage of new technology to allow us, by late summer, to instruct staff to switch base units off overnight. For the longer term, we are drawing up plans to exploit fully the technical opportunities to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions that our replacement IT system—Future Firecrest—will start to deliver in 2008. This will contribute to the FCO's target of achieving carbon neutrality on our UK estate by 2012, as set out in the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins) on 12 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 990W.

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by her Department with outside suppliers in the last five years, as referred to in the answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1861-62W, on information technology. [135611]

Mr. Hoon: The table forming the reply I gave to the hon. Member on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1861-62W referred to is reproduced as follows, updated with the latest available figures:

£ million

Contract	Original estimate	Most recent estimate	Outturn
Future Firecrest—Hewlett Packard	183.5	187.5	[1]77.3
Prism—Capgemini (the company name has changed)	53.1	78.7	[1]66.9
Focus—Fujitsu Consulting	10.5	[2]—	7.5
Foreign and Commonwealth Office Website Internet Project—Logica CMG	6.5	12.3	12.3
Biometric Passports—3M UK plc	6.5	3.5	[1]3.4

[1] Spent so far.
[2] Contract ended March 2003.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1025W, on Departments: official hospitality, if she will break down by area of expenditure the total spent by Government Hospitality, FCO Services in financial year 2006-07. [135564]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* In the financial year 2006-07 Government Hospitality spent on behalf of all Government Departments a total of £809,529.40 in direct charges to suppliers. This was divided between general catering charges and alcohol as follows:

	£
Catering costs	700,814.16
Wine cellar costs	108,715.24

It is not possible to give a more detailed breakdown of charges without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people have taken sick leave for stress in her Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135472]

Mr. Hoon: 53 UK-based members of staff reported stress as the reason for a sickness absence during the past 12 months. This represents just under 0.8 per cent. of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff.

Occupational stress is a health and safety issue. The FCO attaches importance to protecting the health, welfare and productivity of its staff and to reducing causes of stress at work. We provide help and advice to staff and families who face problems at home or at work, which may make life difficult for them, both through their managers and through a dedicated team of welfare officers. We also provide free access to a confidential counselling service.

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made about the health of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, detained in the Combinado del Este Maximum Security Prison in Havana; and if she will make a statement. [135854]

Mr. Hoon: We remain concerned about the plight of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet and other political prisoners in Cuba. We are particularly worried about political prisoners such as Dr. Biscet who are reported to be suffering poor health, yet are not provided with adequate medical treatment. The UK considers Dr. Biscet's imprisonment to be a violation of his civil and political freedoms. At the time of Dr. Biscet's detention, the UK and EU condemned these violations and called for the immediate release of all political prisoners in Cuba.

The UK, along with our EU partners, is committed to seeking improvements in civil and political freedoms in Cuba. We regularly raise the situation of political prisoners in Cuba with the Cuban authorities both in London and Havana and call for their immediate release. On 30 April 2007, the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Mr. McCartney) expressed concern about political prisoners and other human rights issues during a meeting with Cuban Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Antonio Carricarte.

In addition, our embassy in Havana continues to monitor Dr. Biscet's case and maintains contact with his supporters and family. On 10 December 2006, officials from our embassy met with Dr. Biscet's wife, Elsa Morejon. More information on the human rights situation in Cuba and on UK and EU actions can be found in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2006 Annual Human Rights Report, available at www.fco.gov.uk/humanrights

EC Law

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many European Commission draft *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* decisions were adopted by Commission Committees under delegated powers in each year between 2000 and 2006. [135186]

Mr. Hoon: The total numbers of draft directives, regulations, and decisions adopted by the Commission following consideration by committees on which member states are represented are as follows:

	Total
2000	2,840
2001	2,674
2002	3,077
2003	2,768
2004	2,625
2005	2,654

A breakdown of these figures into draft directives, regulations, and decisions is not readily available, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Figures for 2006 will be published in a Commission document expected in August.

European Commission: Publicity

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which EU documents govern the operation of the European Commission's *(a)* media and *(b)* public information campaigns. [133538]

Mr. Hoon: Requests for this information can be made directly to the European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom.

European Constitution

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007 to the right hon. Member for Wells (Mr. Heathcoat-Amory), *Official Report*, column 1347, on the European Constitution, if she will publish the questionnaire and her replies to it, relating to a revised constitutional treaty for the European Union to which she referred. [136483]

Mr. Hoon: At the June European Council, the German presidency will present a report—based on extensive consultations with member states—assessing the state of discussions on the constitutional treaty and exploring possible future developments.

Discussions are currently under way. The Government do not release presidency papers relating to ongoing discussions.

European Movement

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the annual subvention was to the European Movement by the *(a)* United Kingdom Government and *(b)* European Union and its predecessors in each of the last 30 years. [133551]

Mr. Hoon: No annual subvention has been paid to the European Movement under the current Government.

Requests for information on funding from the European Union can be made directly to the European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom.

European Union: Communication

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library the latest annual EU communication plan,

referred to on page II/1090 of the 2007 European Union budget; and what the latest communication goals are for the UK regions. [133086]

Mr. Hoon: Requests for information can be made directly to the European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom.

European Civil Peace Corps

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the current status is of proposals for the establishment of a European civil peace corps; and if she will make a statement. [133541]

Mr. Hoon: The European Parliament has made proposals for the establishment of a European Civil Peace Corps. These have not been taken up by the Council of the European Union or the European Commission.

European Union: Publicity

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library studies conducted by OPTEM at EU level since 2000 on the European Union's public relations activities. [133542]

Mr. Hoon: A number of studies conducted by OPTEM have been published on the website www.europa.eu. Requests for further information about such studies can be made directly to the European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of operating mobile information centres on the European Union in the latest period for which figures are available; and in which countries they operate. [133544]

Mr. Hoon: Requests for this information can be made directly to the European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's role is in setting out the information strategy of the European Union. [133546]

Mr. Hoon: The Government are committed to engaging with the UK public on EU issues. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, along with other Government Departments, continue to support and initiate various activities to generate public awareness of EU issues and a mature debate about them.

The EU Institutions are also working to improve two-way communication between Europe and its citizens. Under established rules for the Scrutiny of EU documents, the Government keeps Parliament informed of developments on all EU policy areas, including information strategy.

Salah Gosh

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what capacity Salah Gosh, Sudan's Head of Military Intelligence, visited the UK in 2006. [134932]

Mr. McCartney: General Salah Abdallah Al Ghosh was granted a visa to visit the UK for medical treatment. At present he is not subject to any UN or EU sanctions or travel restrictions.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether communications took place between British officials and Salah Gosh when he visited the UK in 2006. [135255]

Mr. McCartney: General Salah Abdallah Al Ghosh was granted a visa to visit the UK for medical treatment. While he was here he discussed Darfur with UK officials. At present he is not subject to any UN or EU sanctions or travel restrictions.

Sri Lanka: Peace Negotiations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have taken place with the Norwegian government regarding the status of the 2002 ceasefire agreement between the Sri Lanka government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. [135961]

Dr. Howells: We fully support the tireless work of the Norwegian government to advance the cause of peace in Sri Lanka. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials met the Norwegian Special Envoy, Ambassador Jon Hanssen-Bauer, to discuss the peace process on 24 April. We value our regular consultations with Norway and they tell us that our engagement on Sri Lanka is helpful.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in Sri Lanka. [135855]

Mr. Hoon: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Dr. Howells) made to the House on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1551-57.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Sri Lankan counterparts on the Sri Lankan Government restarting negotiations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. [135856]

Mr. Hoon: We are in frequent contact with the Government of Sri Lanka regarding the peace process in Sri Lanka. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Rohitha Bogollagama in March, and she emphasised our commitment to peace in Sri Lanka.

When my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Dr. Howells) visited Sri Lanka in February he made clear in meetings with President Rajapakse, the Foreign and Human Rights Ministers and other interlocutors our strong support for a negotiated settlement to the

conflict, and our view that the conflict would not be resolved using military means alone. He discussed how the international community could help to create the conditions necessary to allow the peace process to move forward.

We are sharing British experience of the Northern Ireland peace process with the key players in the Sri Lankan peace process. My right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy) visited Sri Lanka last autumn.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of reports of the use of child soldiers in Sri Lanka. [135857]

Mr. Hoon: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Dr. Howells) heard worrying reports of the continuing recruitment and use of child soldiers from non-governmental organisations during his visit to Sri Lanka in February. The involvement of the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in such practices is well established. There is strong evidence to suggest that the unlawful recruitment of children by the Karuna Group is taking place in government controlled areas. We will continue to underline to the Sri Lankan authorities as well as to the LTTE the unacceptability of the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of international law.

We fully support the UN Security Council Resolutions on children in armed conflict, including Resolution 1612 that set up a monitoring and reporting mechanism on the unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers in a number of countries including, Sri Lanka. We are actively involved in the Working Group on children and armed conflict at the UN. We are also in discussion with the United Nations Children's Fund about support to their child protection programmes in Sri Lanka's conflict-affected areas.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of civilians who died as a result of the conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Sri Lankan Government in March and April. [136386]

Dr. Howells: There are differing estimates as to the number of civilian deaths over the stated period. The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission assesses that in March there were 116 civilian deaths, with a further 120 in April.

Sri Lanka: Terrorism

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received from the government of Sri Lanka regarding the actions of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. [135959]

Dr. Howells: We are in frequent contact with the Government of Sri Lanka regarding the actions of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The details of our discussions are confidential.

Sudan: Overseas Companies

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidelines her Department provides to British companies active within Sudan. [135258]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 1 May 2007]*: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, indicated on 30 April 2007, in another place, that decisions on investments in Sudan were a matter for businesses to decide, that such decisions should seek to avoid impacting on the people of southern Sudan, but that decisions to disinvest reflected a sound ethical principle, *Official Report*, column 868.

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Development issued a statement on 29 April reinforcing the UK's commitment to finding a solution to the appalling situation in Darfur. We are pressing the Sudanese to co-operate with the international community. If this is not forthcoming we are prepared to consider further sanctions. We are discussing the elements of a new UN Security Council Resolution with international partners, which would include further targeted sanctions against individuals engaged in violence or responsible for authorising it; an extension of the arms embargo to cover the whole of Sudan; and, measures to allow better monitoring of the illegal use of aircraft in Darfur.

Tamils

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has received from Tamil community groups in the UK. [135960]

Dr. Howells: We continue to receive frequent representations from members of the Sri Lankan diaspora, non-governmental organisations and hon. Members, which reflect a wide variety of views on the conflict and peace process in Sri Lanka.

Uzbekistan

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the prosecution of Christian leaders including Pastor Salavat Serikbaev in Uzbekistan; and what representations she has made to the Uzbekistan Government. [136000]

Mr. Hoon: We are concerned by the increasing reports of discrimination, harassment and criminal prosecutions of religious minorities, notably Protestant Christians and including the case of Pastor Serikbaev. Our embassy in Tashkent keeps in regular touch with representatives of religious minorities and non-governmental organisations which monitor freedom of religion in the country.

The EU is starting a Human Rights Dialogue with the Uzbek Government which will cover the main issues of concern, including freedom of religion. We hope that this will lead to substantive progress in lifting the restrictions on worship as well as a resumption of

co-operation by the Uzbek Government with UN and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe experts.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Information Packs

21. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with HM Treasury on the introduction of home information packs. [135798]

Yvette Cooper: The two Departments have had regular discussions on the introduction of home information packs, including recently on the potential for the development of green mortgages linked to energy performance certificates.

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that local authorities' charges for searches in relation to home information packs are fair and transparent. [136033]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of Fair Trading in its market study of property searches recommended that, if local authorities (LAs) were to set their own fees for property searches, then central government should provide clear guidance to them on how they should recover costs and how they should set charges to avoid distorting competition in the supply of property searches.

To address this, Communities and Local Government in its consultation paper, 'HIP Update: Toward 1 June' published in January 2007, announced that it would seek tenders for the production of a LA charging methodology with supporting guidance and review local land charge fees. The tendering process is complete and work is now about to commence. A public consultation is planned for later this year on the outcomes.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

23. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of tenants who have participated in the tenancy deposit scheme. [135800]

Meg Munn: Tenancy Deposit Protection began on 6 April 2007. It applies to all assured shorthold tenancies in England and Wales. The latest estimate of the number of tenants whose deposit will require protection in a Government-authorised scheme is derived from the Survey of English Housing 2005-06. This revealed that there were some 1.7 million assured shorthold tenancies in England, of which 1.4 million tenants had paid a deposit. The most recent figures for Wales—the 2004 Living in Wales Survey—indicates there were some 49,000 assured shorthold tenancies. It is not known how many of them had paid deposits.

Reorganisation: North Staffordshire

25. **Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the reorganisation of councils in North Staffordshire. [135802]

Mr. Woolas: We have not received any proposals for unitary status, or for councils to be two-tier pathfinders pioneering new models, from councils in Staffordshire. Accordingly, local government reorganisation in Staffordshire is currently not an issue that is being pursued.

Social Housing

27. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the future level of social housing stock. [135804]

Yvette Cooper: We are on course to deliver the target of 30,000 new social rented homes a year by 2008 and the provision of social housing will be a priority for the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

We are also supporting local authorities to take a lead role in developing more social housing, using surplus land.

Green Belt

28. **Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government are on target to achieve a positive average annual change in the Green Belt in each region over the period 2002-07. [135805]

Yvette Cooper: The target is that there should be an increase or no net change in the area of designated green belt in each region over the period 2003-07. It is the responsibility of planning authorities to establish or review green belt boundaries through the plan making process.

Excluding the 47,300 hectares of green belt land which was designated as National Park in 2005, the total amount of green belt has increased across England by 7,500 hectares over the three-year period 2003-06.

Delegation of Powers

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further powers she is planning to delegate to local government. [135799]

Ruth Kelly: The Local Government White Paper, "Strong and Prosperous Communities", sets out radical proposals to devolve power to local authorities, improve local partnership working and empower local communities.

The Government will shortly be announcing proposals for devolution of further powers in the areas of planning and local bus services, and are considering the case for further devolution to local government to support economic development.

Community Projects: Bexhill and Battle

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for funding for community-based projects in Bexhill and Battle during 2007. [135801]

Angela E. Smith: I have no plans for any direct central Government funding for community-based projects in Bexhill and Battle. My Department's policy is to channel funding for area-based initiatives through local area agreements. Local area agreements provide local partnerships with the flexibility to determine funding decisions, based on local assessment of needs and priorities.

Affordable Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on increasing spending on affordable housing in the next Comprehensive Spending Review. [135803]

Yvette Cooper: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has had and will continue to have wide ranging and regular discussions with the Chancellor and the Chief Secretary about preparations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Conveyancing: Public Records

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what circumstances a local authority may restrict access to public records required for home-buying. [136362]

Yvette Cooper: There should be no circumstances where a local authority refuses access to records that are required to be made publicly available by statute. A local authority must act reasonably in fulfilling duties to allow access to records open for public inspection. This means that, subject to any reasonable management system put in place by the local authority, records should be open for inspection during the authority's normal working hours.

Council Tax: Second Homes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of whether individuals are correctly claiming second home discount on council tax. [136294]

Mr. Woolas: No assessment has been made. The administration of council tax is a matter for local billing authorities. Under section 14 of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 billing authorities are under a statutory duty to take reasonable steps to ascertain entitlement to a discount when calculating a property's council tax.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on hospitality by her Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133249]

Angela E. Smith: The Department spent £322,777 on hospitality in the financial year 2006-07. Recorded hospitality expenditure in 2006-07 is higher than in previous years, due to coding parameter changes on the Department's financial system, which mean that some catering expenditure is also included.

All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting.

Domestic Violence: Refuges

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many safe houses are provided in each region of England for women who have suffered domestic violence. [135675]

Yvette Cooper: A national survey of refuge places in 1998 showed that there were 409 domestic violence refuge properties in England with approximately 7,269 bed-spaces.

The regional breakdown was as follows:

Government office region	*Total refuge bed spaces*
Eastern	775
East Midlands	690
London	1,606
North East	424
North West	929
South East	939
South West	578
West Midlands	739
Yorkshire and Humberside	589
Total	7,269

In 2003 the Government announced major investment in refuge provision in England in 2003-06. A total of £32.1 million capital was allocated (£15.7 million through the Housing Corporation and £16.4 million from the Homelessness Strategy and Support Directorate in Communities and Local Government). 511 units of accommodation were refurbished or newly built.

In December 2006 we published guidance to encourage local authorities to set up sanctuary schemes which provide security measures to allow those experiencing domestic violence to remain in their own accommodation where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice and where the perpetrator no longer lives within the accommodation. Where it is appropriate (it is not so in all cases), a sanctuary increases the accommodation options available to victims of domestic violence.

Equal Opportunities Commission: Equal Pay

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* job titles and *(b)* salaries are of the male staff at the Equal Opportunities Commission; and what the average salary is for (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) all staff at the Equal Opportunities Commission. [134418]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is as follows.

EOC: Male job titles (30 staff in total)

Administrative Officer
Administrative Officer
Administrative Officer and Welsh Language Assistant
Administrator to Director of EOC Wales
Casework Manager
Casework Officer
Central Services Assistant
Director of Investigations and Enforcement Unit
Director of Policy and Operations
Director of Strategy, Research and Information
Employment Policy Manager
European and Public Affairs Manager
Facilities Manager
Head of Corporate Services
Head of EOC Scotland
Helpline Advisor
Helpline Operator
ICT Manager
ICT Network Manager
ICT Support Officer
Management Accountant
Media Manager
Operational and Project Support Officer
Policy Officer
Project Support Accountant
Publications Officer
Research Manager
Secretariat and Facilities Assistant
Senior Investigations and Enforcement Officer
Web Communications Officer

	£
Average Male salary	26,962
Average Female salary	25,128
Average for All Staff	25,463

Fire Services: Kirkby

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessments she has made of *(a)* the adequacy of the way in which the incident on 20 February 2007 at the Sonae Factory in Kirkby was contained and extinguished by the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, *(b)* the adequacy of the response time of the foam appliance, *(c)* the appropriateness of the time taken for the foam to be applied to the fire and *(d)* the degree of competence shown by the fire officers at the scene in containing the fire. [134530]

Angela E. Smith: I am advised by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) that on 20 February a fire broke out at the Sonae factory at around 13.37 hours in the thermal oil room on the ground floor. The two nearest fire appliances were mobilised and were at the scene within six minutes. In the next five minutes, an initial risk assessment was made by the Officer in Charge and a further two fire appliances and a foam unit were requested.

Prior to the arrival of MFRS, the Works Firefighting Team had set up their own fire appliance and had deployed a line of hose and a number of portable fire extinguishers. After the Works Team and their equipment had been safely removed, the initial attack from MFRS commenced at 13.57 hours. This involved a ground monitor and a line of delivery hose, which combined to cool the surrounding structure and hot gases.

A further assessment then resulted in a request being made for four more fire appliances (total of eight) and an aerial appliance. The foam unit arrived at the scene around 14.20 hours and the initial foam attack commenced soon after this.

At its peak, the incident required two foam branches, two water branches and a high pressure hose reel jet. A total of 10 fire appliances were in attendance at this peak. The fire had been extinguished and crews were involved in damping down operations by 15.20 hours.

After the operations had been scaled down, two fire appliances remained in attendance until the early hours of 21 February.

The incident is currently the subject of an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive.

On the basis of the above information I see no evidence that the response by MFRS was not adequate or competent. The risk assessment which determined that a foam unit was required was made within five minutes of the first appliance's arrival at the incident, which itself was within six minutes of having been mobilised. MFRS has two foam tenders, stationed north and south of the river in accordance with the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will instruct the Merseyside Fire Authority to investigate and report to her on the actions taken by the Fire and Rescue Service in dealing with the fire at the Sonae factory on 20 February; and if she will make a statement. [133417]

Angela E. Smith: I am advised by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) that on 20 February a fire broke out at the Sonae factory at around 13:37 hours in the thermal oil room on the ground floor. The two nearest fire appliances were mobilised and were at the scene within six minutes. In the next five minutes, an initial risk assessment was made by the Officer in Charge and a further two fire appliances and a foam unit were requested.

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The incident is currently the subject of an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive.

Fire Stations: Closures

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire stations *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [135506]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not held centrally.

Housing: Energy

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many accredited *(a)* domestic energy assessors and *(b)* home inspectors there are within each (i) local authority area and (ii) city in England. [132410]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 April 2007]:* As at 4 April there were more than 3,500 domestic energy assessor (DEA) candidates in training. In addition, there were over 1,900 who were either at an advanced stage in their training as Home Inspectors (HIs) or who had completed training. As at 3 May, there are 1,902 DEAs and HIs who have passed the relevant exam or exams.

We conducted a survey—consisting of 1,935 respondents—that showed the following distribution across the country:

Region	*Percentage by region*
Eastern	11
East Midlands	7
London	8
North East	3
North West	11
South East	19
South West	13
Wales	4
West Midlands	10
Yorkshire and Humberside	6
Other	8
Total	100

We do not expect assessors to work within local authority boundaries, as they will work largely by region—in some parts of the country, assessors will work across more than one region—an example being London and the South East.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her proposals are for requiring energy performance certificates for *(a)* rented housing at the point of letting and *(b)* private housing at the point of sale. [132836]

Yvette Cooper: Requirements for energy performance certificates are set out in the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations 2007, which were laid before Parliament on 29 March 2007 and came into force on 19 April 2007. From 1 June 2007, a seller will be required to make an energy performance certificate available to a prospective buyer as part of the home information pack, and give the certificate to the eventual buyer. From October 2008, a landlord will be required to make an energy performance certificate available to a prospective tenant, and give the certificate to the final tenant.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether details of home energy ratings for residential properties will be recorded by the Land Registry following the sale or transfer of such properties. [135523]

Yvette Cooper: Energy Performance Certificates for residential properties will not be recorded by the Land Registry.

Housing: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of recent trends in house prices on first-time buyers in Hartlepool constituency; and what steps her Department plans to help first-time buyers. [131364]

Yvette Cooper: The problems arising from increasing house prices and the difficulties this causes for first timer buyers are recognised both at a national and regional level and specifically in Hartlepool where price increases have been particularly high.

The Government, through the Housing Corporation and other partners, have set up a series of First Time Buyer initiatives, placed affordability and shared ownership on the agenda of the North East Regional Housing Strategy, and worked with Tees Valley Housing Partnership in their sub-regional Housing Strategy for Tees Valley.

Hartlepool borough council's Housing Strategy for the period 2006 to 2011 includes the following specific targets by 2010. Construction of 300 new homes for sale, equity share and rent on the first of three central area sites earmarked for clearance and redevelopment and the re-occupation of 160 houses not affected by demolition in the regeneration areas.

It also proposes enforcement action to bring 10 problematic, empty properties a year back into use.

Housing: Inspections

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* house inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy assessors are expected to qualify on government-accredited schemes by 31 March. [129063]

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have trained to be home information pack inspectors, broken down by local authority area. [114760]

Yvette Cooper: As at 4 April there were more than 3,500 Domestic Energy Assessor (DEA) candidates in training. In addition, there were over 1,900 who were either at an advanced stage in their training as Home Inspectors (HIs) or who had completed training.

As at 3 May, there are 1,902 DEAs and HIs who have passed the relevant exam or exams.

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We do not expect assessors to work within local authority boundaries, as they will work largely by region—in some parts of the country, assessors will work across more than one region—an example being London and the south east.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many accredited *(a)* domestic energy assessors and *(b)* home inspectors there are within each (i) region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) city in England; [134087]

(2) how many accredited *(a)* domestic energy assessors and *(b)* home inspectors there are in each (i) local authority area, (ii) region and (iii) city in (A) England and (B) Wales. [135150]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answers 26 April and 2 May 2007]:* As at 4 April there were more than 3,500 Domestic Energy Assessor (DEA) candidates in training. In addition, there were over 1,900 who were either at an advanced stage in their training as Home Inspectors (HIs) or who had completed training.

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Total	100

We do not expect assessors to work within local authority boundaries, as they will work largely by region—in some parts of the country, assessors will work across more than one region—an example being London and the South East.

Housing: Low Incomes

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to respond formally to the report by the Affordable Housing Commission. [135350]

Yvette Cooper: As set out at the time of the Affordable Rural Housing report, we are using a range of channels and mechanisms to respond, including PPS3, CSR07 and a website we co-host with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which we are posting progress we are making in the delivery of affordable homes in rural areas.

Housing: Pollution Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will include a lifetime carbon footprint measure in the environmental cost of a new domestic dwelling. [134927]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have proposed that from 2016, building regulations will require that all new homes are zero carbon. That means that during any year, the net carbon emissions from all energy use in the home are zero.

This definition does not take into account the carbon associated with the whole lifecycle of the technologies and materials used to build a zero carbon home.

Local Government

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which Government guidance documents have been issued to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* regional assemblies and *(c)* regional development agencies which are required to be considered in determining policy; [133369]

(2) which *(a)* strategy documents, *(b)* plans, *(c)* audits, *(d)* reviews and *(e)* returns (i) local authorities and (ii) regional assemblies have been required (A) to adopt, (B) to provide to Government Departments and (C) to have undertaken by a third party (1) by legislation and (2) to obtain or support funding or freedoms in the year 2006-07. [133370]

Angela E. Smith: Many Government Departments offer guidance or seek information from local authorities, in addition to Communities and Local Government. Information on this is not held centrally.

As the designated Regional Planning Bodies, regional assemblies have a statutory duty to prepare, monitor and keep under review Regional Spatial Strategies. In

doing so, they must have regard to a body of national guidance and advice including Planning Policy Statements.

Regional Assemblies have also taken on responsibilities previously held by Regional Housing Boards, including the preparation of advice for Ministers on regional housing allocations and the preparation of a Regional Housing Strategy. They have been asked to provide advice to Ministers on housing investment in the regions and on funding priorities for housing in the region.

On the basis of guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government, Regional Assemblies provide annual business plans setting out their activities for the next three years. These and half-yearly returns to Government Offices are required for the assessment and payment of Government grant.

Regional Development Agencies operate under a framework of guidance on the preparation of Regional Economic Strategies and the Corporate Plan 2005-08 Tasking Framework. There are also a number of other guidance documents, which are more technical or practical in nature, covering delivering schemes, programmes and projects, or financial matters.

Multiple Occupation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in England fall within the definition of section 257 of the Housing Act 2004, broken down by local authority. [133338]

Yvette Cooper: The Department does not collect this data.

Multiple Occupation: Fires

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been killed or seriously injured by fire-related incidents in properties defined by section 257 of the Housing Act 2004 since April 2005. [133228]

Angela E. Smith: Section 257 of the Housing Act 2004 concerns blocks that have been converted into self-contained flats where the conversion did not comply with the 1991 Building Regulations, and where less than two-thirds are owner-occupied. The Department does not collect information on fires in flats that meet this definition.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many houses in multiple occupation which meet the mandatory licensing definition have been licensed; what percentage this figure represents of the number estimated to exist in the Government's Regulatory Impact Assessment; and how many were *(a)* new licence applications and *(b)* passported in from existing registration schemes; [133229]

(2) what estimate each local authority has made of the numbers of mandatory houses in multiple occupation licences that they will need to issue. [133337]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has in the past 12 months been working closely with local authorities in England in the development of a new data collection system which will enable it to monitor the progress of licensing in each authority. The system has gone live and the Department should receive returns from the end of April 2007 onwards.

Non-Domestic Rates: Agriculture

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the rating of agricultural buildings. [135990]

Mr. Woolas: Agricultural land and agricultural buildings are exempt from business rates under Schedule 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Unitary Councils

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account her Department has taken of the provisions of the Local Government Act 1992 relating to the process for local government restructuring in formulating proposals for the establishment of unitary status. [135333]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the Westminster Hall debate on Local Government (Cornwall) on 18 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 139WH; when issuing the Invitation to Councils and conducting the stakeholder consultation, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is acting under her wide prerogative powers.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal advice her Department *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on the compliance of recent proposals for the establishment of unitary status authorities with the Local Government Act 1992. [135334]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1538W. It is not the usual practice for Governments to disclose whether or not they have sought or received legal advice, or the content of such advice, and it would not be appropriate for me to do so in this case.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Francois: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what costs have been incurred by her Department as a result of proposals to create a Ministry of Justice. [136305]

Vera Baird: Costs incurred by the DCA up to 9 May 2007 in relation to the setting up of the Ministry of Justice are estimated at £1.5 million. These costs mainly relate to IT and estate changes to ensure the new Ministry can operate effectively.

Additional costs arising from the integration of the various activities that constitute the new Ministry will be incurred after 9 May. These costs have yet to be fully assessed.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many grievance procedures have been initiated in her Department in the last 12 months. [135168]

Vera Baird: There are no figures available for the number of grievances initiated in my Department, save for the numbers of grievances involving equality and diversity issues. There were 19 grievances initiated involving equality and diversity issues.

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by her Department with outside suppliers in the last five years, as referred to in the answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1837W, on information technology. [135612]

Vera Baird: For my Department, the five relevant IT contracts are with Atos Origin, LogicaCMG, Fujitsu Services; STL and Accenture.

(a) The originally estimated costs of these contracts are:

Atos Origin (IT Infrastructure Management): £302 million

LogicaCMG (IT Applications Management): £162 million: both the aforementioned were tendered in October 2006 over seven years;

Fujitsu Services (magistrates courts IT systems) was tendered in July 2002 for £232 million over 8.5 years;

STL (magistrates courts IT systems): £38.5 million;

Accenture (magistrates courts IT systems): £36 million.

(b) and *(c)* All these contracts are ongoing and some will be subject to value for money contract re-negotiation. Therefore outturn costs do not apply. The current values of each of the contracts are as follows:

Atos Origin: £298.4 million

LogicaCMG: £158.2 million

Fujitsu Services: £232 million

STL: £38.5 million

Accenture: £36 million

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which Ministers in her Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135542]

Vera Baird: This Government publishes an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Baroness Ashton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, visited India from 26 April to 5 May 2007.

Departments: Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many oral questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to her Department have been transferred to other Departments since May 2005. [133808]

Vera Baird: My Department has transferred six oral questions to other Departments since May 2005.

Departments: Publications

David Davis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the reports produced by consultants to her Department in each of the last five years. [136230]

Vera Baird: My Department has used consultants for expert professional advice on various projects to support our objectives and deliver our fast-paced programme of modernisation and reform. However, information on whether a report was produced at the end of individual consultancy assignments over the past five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by her Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [134994]

Vera Baird: The amount of energy that DCA purchased from renewable sources that was climate change levy exempt during 2005-06 was 14,127,483 kwh.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in her Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135366]

Vera Baird: During the last 12 months (for the period April 2006 to March 2007) the Department for Constitutional Affairs has investigated no official complaints about sexual harassment.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people took sick leave for stress in her Department in

the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135478]

Vera Baird: For the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 the total number of staff, where stress was given as the reason for absence was 768, 2.6 per cent. of the total headcount for the whole of DCA.

The total number of sick days due to stress for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was 29,389, 12.5 per cent. of the total number of sick days.

The Department is committed to ensuring that the factors leading to harmful stress levels are minimised as far as possible. The current DCA stress policy and stress toolkit is under review for relaunch early summer 2007. These documents provide advice and guidance to help staff identify and take appropriate steps to prevent or manage stress at work. There is also training for individuals and managers, stress risk assessments, focused support from HR and work place support teams and a stress helpline.

HM Revenue and Customs: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on local court services of the withdrawal of debt management and banking staff from the HM Revenue and Customs office in Great Yarmouth. [134309]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The review of the cluster of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices comprising Great Yarmouth, Norwich and East Dereham is planned to take place later this year. No decisions on the future of any of these offices will be made until the review process is completed.

However, where HMRC provides a local service in support of customers or another Government Department this will continue to be the case irrespective of the outcome of the review.

Judiciary

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on what dates *(a)* the Lord Chancellor and *(b)* departmental officials have had meetings with representatives of the judiciary of England and Wales to discuss the setting up and responsibilities of the Ministry of Justice; and what the (i) names and (ii) positions were of those attending each meeting. [135128]

Vera Baird: The Lord Chancellor has regular meetings with senior members of the judiciary to discuss various subjects including the Ministry of Justice. A working group of senior officials and members of the judiciary was set up to discuss these issues. They have met eight times so far. Information relating to the meetings and the detailed membership is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of discussion.

Ministry of Justice: Manpower

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether Home Office civil servants are expected to be directly transferred to the Ministry of Justice; and if she will make a statement. [134346]

Vera Baird: Staff working in an area affected by these changes are expected to move with the work, although exceptional circumstances will be considered. The Home Office will ensure that people and other relevant resources are available from 9 May to support transition until substantive arrangements are agreed.

Ministry of Justice: Scotland Office

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions have taken place with the Scotland Office on the implications of the creation of a new Ministry of Justice. [134351]

Vera Baird: As part of the arrangements for transition, responsibility for the Scotland Office will move from the Department for Constitutional Affairs to the new Ministry of Justice. This change does not affect the accountability of the Office to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

The permanent secretary of the Department for Constitutional Affairs wrote to staff (including Scotland Office staff) on 29 March 2007 to explain the change. As a key stakeholder, the Scotland Office is regularly updated on progress.

Supreme Court: Buildings

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many private contractors were engaged by the Department with a view to costing a new building for the Supreme Court. [134348]

Vera Baird: The DCA took advice on a 'new build' from one reputable estate agent during the site selection process for the UK Supreme Court.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which buildings were considered as a potential site for the Supreme Court. [134350]

Vera Baird: In 2004 a statement of requirements for the building to house the UK Supreme Court was agreed in conjunction with the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary. This search generated a long-list of 48 properties but only eight of which, after closer scrutiny against a number of criteria (size, operational efficiency, adaptability, suitability), merited further consideration.

Central and Staple Court, WC2—commercial property

4 Mathew Parker Street, SW1—Crown Estate property

New Wing, Somerset House—Crown Estate/commercial property

Field House, Bream's Buildings EC4—DCA estate property

Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square WC1—commercial property

Middlesex Guildhall, Parliament Square

Stewart House, 24 Kingsway London WC2

St. Dunstan's House, London EC4 A1DQ.

The long list has never been made public as it includes several properties where no formal contact was made with regards to the search.

HEALTH

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much public funding has been provided to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges to support the development of revalidation. [133574]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have provided funding totalling £1.5 million to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges to support the development of revalidation processes for specialist recertification.

Autism

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* the area corresponding as closely as possible to Middlesbrough and South East Cleveland were diagnosed with autism in the last seven years. [134870]

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Great Yarmouth were diagnosed with autism in each of the last 30 years for which figures are available. [135200]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of people diagnosed with autism is not collected.

Bereavement Counselling

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the change in NHS resources for bereavement counselling and end-of-life services on surviving children and family members. [133634]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None.

It is for national health service trusts to determine the provision of appropriate support and advice to families at the time of bereavement locally, in line with local needs and circumstances.

Bevacizumab

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the total costs to a patient who is prescribed and buys avastin for the treatment of cancer over a period of six months; and if she will make a statement. [134159]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cost to a patient who is prescribed and buys Avastin will vary in individual cases due to factors such as body weight, dose of Avastin received and length of treatment.

However, in its appraisal of Avastin for advanced colorectal cancer, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence estimated the average total cost of drug acquisition to be £17,665.65 per patient. Costs may vary in different settings because of negotiated procurement discounts.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has in place for *(a)* the training of staff and *(b)* the development of capacity to meet the Government's commitment that all women with breast problems referred to a breast specialist by their GP will be seen within two weeks by 2008. [134380]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* The Government set out their commitment to go further on cancer waits in their 2005 election manifesto. Proposals for going further on cancer waits, including seeing all patients with breast symptoms within two weeks, will be taken forward as part of the Cancer Reform Strategy currently being developed by the National Cancer Director.

Last year the Department commissioned Skills for Health, which is the Sector Skills Council for Health, to develop competencies in breast assessment, which can be used to develop training programmes to increase capacity in qualified breast assessment staff.

Breast Cancer: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 322W, on breast cancer: Greater London (1) what recommendations were contained in the review of the North of London Breast Screening Service carried out by the National Breast Screening Service Quality Assurance Team; [135672]

(2) what assessment she has made of the lessons to be drawn from the review of the North of London Breast Screening Service carried out by the National Breast Screening Service Quality Assurance Team for the effectiveness of breast screening services in other areas of the country. [135673]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* The report of the review carried out by the National Breast Screening Service Quality Assurance Team has yet to be published, and so assessments cannot be made or recommendations taken into account. The review is due to be published during May.

Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she last met representatives of Bromley NHS Trust; and what was discussed. [135574]

Andy Burnham: Records show that the Secretary of State for Health and her Ministers have not had meetings with any representative from Bromley National Health Service Trust in the last year.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the financial position of Bromley NHS Trust. [135575]

Andy Burnham: At quarter three 2006-07, Bromley Hospitals National Health Service Trust was reporting a forecast outturn year end deficit of £12.9 million.

As announced on 28 March 2007, Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust will receive income of £14.1 million to reverse the impact of resource accounting and budgeting deductions made in 2006-07. This would improve the reported position at quarter three to a surplus of £1.2 million.

Cancer Diagnosis

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of patients diagnosed with cancer in the last period for which figures are available were *(a)* urgently referred and *(b)* routinely referred by their GP; and what proportion were identified through an NHS cancer screening programme. [125208]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[pursuant to the reply, 7 March 2007, Official Report, c. 2094W]:* Data are not held centrally for those patients who were not urgently referred by their general practitioner (GP) for suspected cancer. For the most recently available period (October to December 2006) published data show that of all patients treated 39.7 per cent. were referred urgently for suspected cancer by their GP, and 60.3 per cent. were referred from another source, or routinely referred (this will include referrals from NHS screening services).

We do not hold information specifically relating to screening services. For breast screening during the year 2004-05 statistics show that 71,363 women were referred for an assessment by a local breast screening service. Of these patients 11,966 were subsequently diagnosed with cancer.

For cervical screening, during the year 2005-06 (the most recently available) information held by the Department indicates that 129,207 women were referred for a colposcopy examination by a local cervical screening service. Of these women 857 were subsequently diagnosed with a severe or invasive carcinoma.

Chiropody

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many chiropodists qualified in England in each of the last five years. [132868]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on chiropody graduates is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number of students who entered training to be a chiropodist in each of the last five years.

Pre-registration training commissions for chiropody—England

	Number
2001-02	345
2002-03	427
2003-04	451
2004-05	559
2005-06	446

Source: Quarterly monitoring returns.

Community Nurses

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community matrons are in post in each region; and if she will make a statement. [135299]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* The table shows the number of community matrons in post by strategic health authorities as at 30 September 2006. Based on the Department's monitoring the figures may well understate the true picture.

In 2006 there were 366 community matrons, an increase of 99 (37.1 per cent.) on 2005.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified community nursing matron staff in each SHA as at 30 September 2006

	Headcount
England	366
North East Strategic Health Authority	32
North West Strategic Health Authority	72
Yorkshire and The Humber Strategic Health Authority	70
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	28
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	31
East of England Strategic Health Authority	31
London Strategic Health Authority	35
South Central Strategic Health Authority	12
South West Strategic Health Authority	55

Source: The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Dental Services: Manpower

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists per head of population there were in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [134847]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Numbers of persons per national health service dentist in England as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in annex F of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006".

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements and is available at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) area. This report is available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Information is only available at SHA and PCT level for 2001 to 2006.

Numbers of persons per NHS dentist in England as at 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 are available in section G of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3:31 December 2006 report".

This information is based on the new contractual arrangements and is not directly comparable with earlier information. Data are available at SHA and PCT level. This report is available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006

Numbers of persons per dentist are not available at constituency area. Both reports are available in the Library.

Dental Services: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in each of the last five years. [134886]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Numbers of national health service dentists in regional areas in England as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Annex E contains information at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) area. Information at parliamentary constituency area is available in annex G.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report is available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Numbers of NHS dentists in regional areas in England as at 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 are available in section G of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3: 31 December 2006 report".

This information is based on the new contractual arrangements and is not directly comparable with earlier information. Data are only available at SHA and PCT level. To provide these data at constituency level area would be at disproportionate cost. This report is available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006

Departments: Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to her Department for oral answer have been transferred to other Departments since May 2005. [133799]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: One.

Doctors: Languages

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that all doctors practising in England have satisfactory proficiency in the English language; and if she will make a statement. [121584]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In order to be registered with the General Medical Council, doctors who trained outside the European Economic Area must show that they are proficient in the English language. Where their training was not undertaken in the English language, this is usually demonstrated by the achievement of level 7 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

It is the responsibility of employers to ensure that the doctors they employ are able to safely and effectively communicate with colleagues and patients. All applicants to foundation programmes or specialty registrar programmes are required to demonstrate a competence in English at IELTS level 7, if they have not undertaken their medical training in English.

Doctors: Recruitment

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to ensure that there will be no significant service impacts for NHS trusts during the interview period for new posts under the Modernising Medical careers reform. [132029]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* The Department has been working with NHS employers to keep trusts informed throughout the process about what they need to do. National health service organisations have been working on planning for this phase of recruitment to specialty training for the past six months and trusts have managed detailed planning at local level to ensure that there is appropriate cover and that patient services are not compromised.

We are committed to ensuring NHS trusts have adequate staff cover to enable them to provide high quality services to patients at all times.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of ketamine used illegally on health in *(a)* Gloucestershire, *(b)* the Forest of Dean and *(c)* England in the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [136073]

Caroline Flint: Ketamine is used in medical and veterinary practice as an anaesthetic. Between 1997 and 2003 there were increasing reports of ketamine misuse, particularly in nightclubs. Consuming ketamine has the effect of detaching users from reality and therefore unable to maintain personal safety.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) investigated the status of ketamine and produced a report in 2003. This report recommended that ketamine be controlled by Misuse of Drugs Act and was referred to the Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs. The MHRA is not aware of any particular incidents involving ketamine in Gloucestershire or the Forest of Dean.

Ketamine was classified as a class C controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 from January 2006 and is the responsibility of the Home Office.

General Practitioners: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of general practitioners' premises were above minimum standards on the last date for which figures are available in *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust. [131923]

Andy Burnham: Primary care trusts (PCTs) and predecessor organisations have responsibility for managing delivery of services provided by general practitioners (GPs), including the adequacy of their practice premises.

Since 1997, there has been a 60 per cent. increase in investment in GP premises. Part of this was through the NHS Plan targets to refurbish or replace up to 3,000 GP premises and create 500 primary care centres.

These targets were achieved through the replacement or refurbishment of 2,848 GP premises and 510 primary care centres. An extended target of 625 primary care centres by December 2006 was met with 674 created and we expect to have 750 by the end of 2008.

In addition, there are many examples of new premises provided under the NHS local finance investment trust initiative (NHS LIFT) that fully satisfy minimum standards. The LIFT programme has contributed to this progress and has proven to be a tremendous success. Already a capital investment of over £1.2 billion has resulted in 120 LIFT buildings open to patients with another 73 under construction.

A subjective assessment by PCTs of the proportion of premises meeting the minimum standards as at 31 March 2005 has been placed in the Library and is the last year that this data was collected. This 2005 snapshot by PCTs shows that some GP premises across the country collectively were judged as being below minimum standards. However, this needs to be set in context.

Judgments for some of those standards are subjective which by their very nature may lead to some PCTs reporting higher levels of premises that do not meet minimum standards than other PCTs with similar premises. Being below minimum standards does not mean the buildings are in a dangerous condition. Rather, that the premises may judged by PCTs as not having for example, full and adequate access to and within premises for disabled people. How individual PCTs make this judgment can result in variations in the percentage of premises deemed in not satisfying minimum standards.

This is not because of a lack of intent by GPs practices and their PCTs to provide modern facilities but because, for example, the building is too small to incorporate changes with a general lack of suitable, alternative locations to develop new premises. These are historic problems particularly and modernisation of GP premises on this scale required in 1997 inevitably take time to achieve but the good progress made will continue.

Gynaecology: Training

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many obstetric and gynaecology ST3 training posts were given to *(a)* British citizens, *(b)* EU citizens, *(c)* British residents and *(d)* other nationalities in the latest period for which figures are available. [132298]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The recruitment process for obstetric and gynaecology ST3 programmes has not concluded. As such no such programmes have been awarded.

Health Education: Advertising

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what public health advertising campaigns were undertaken by her Department in each of the last five years; and what the total costs were of such campaigns; [120961]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of each of the public health advertising campaigns undertaken by her Department since 2002. [120962]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following table outlines the cost of Departmental campaigns undertaken to improve public health since April 2001.

£ million

Campaign	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Antibiotics	0.78	0.59	1.02	—	0.39
CALM	0.38	0.58	0.43	0.44	0.32
Drugs	—	1.80	1.75	1.33	4.40
Flu	1.45	2.40	1.95	2.25	2.32
Hepatitis C	—	—	0.15	0.70	1.28
Immunisation	1.67	2.36	3.63	3.10	1.35
Mental Health, Mind Out	0.97	1.01	1.62	—	—
Sexwise/ teenage pregnancy	2.44	1.97	2.15	—	—
Sexual health	0.30	1.50	1.60	1.27	0.62
Smoking	12.30	11.56	23.41	26.50	30.50
TB awareness	0.30	0.09	0.01	0.20	—
5 A DAY	0.50	0.48	1.03	0.90	0.92

Note:
DH contribution to Frank substance misuse campaign jointly funded by Department of Health, Home Office and Department for Education and Skills

Each campaign is only one of a number of interventions in the drive to improve public health. It is not possible to separate the impact of these campaigns from that of other interventions or factors which may have influenced public behaviour over the period in question.

Antibiotics

As a result of an increase in the number of strains of bacteria developing resistance the Department launched a publicity campaign, aimed at health professionals and the general public, in 1999-2000 to encourage sensible prescribing and use of antibiotics.

The ongoing publicity campaigns inform the public not to routinely expect antibiotics for coughs and colds as antibiotics only work on bacterial infections, and not on most coughs and colds or viral infections. As well as posters and leaflets we also provided general practitioners (GPs) with pads of non-prescription forms that could be given to patients explaining why the doctor was not prescribing an antibiotic.

Evaluations have shown that the public has understood the key messages and we believe that they will have contributed to the decrease in antibiotic prescribing in the community.

Calm

The suicide rate in young men is coming down but we do not have direct evidence of the effect or influence of the Calm campaign on that reduction.

This Departmental campaign came to and end on 31 March 2006. From 1 April 2006 Calm became a charity, not sponsored by the Department.

Drugs

The FRANK drugs information campaign funded jointly by the Department, the Home Office and the Department for Education and Skills targets young

people aged 11 to 21 years, particularly vulnerable young people, and the parents or carers of 11-18 year olds. It provides a gateway for information and advice about the effects and risks of drugs, local treatment services and drugs and the law.

The campaign contributes towards the Department's public service agreement (PSA) target to increase the participation of problem drug users in drug treatment programmes by 100 per cent. by 2008 (from 1998) and increase year-on-year the proportion of users successfully sustaining or completing treatment programmes.

The PSA target was exceeded in 2005-06 with 181,390 users going in to treatment. The FRANK campaign is now placing particular emphasis on meeting the needs of vulnerable young people as well as supporting a wider programme of activity in support of the joint Department for Education and Skills and Home Office target to reduce the numbers of young people using drugs.

In the two years to April 2006 the "talktofrank" campaign website received over 10 million hits with 500,000 hits to its treatment pages. Over the same period the FRANK helpline received 1.6 million calls and answered 107,000 emails. The helpline has directed over 45,000 young people to treatment services.

Flu

The seasonal influenza campaign in the United Kingdom has made considerable progress in increasing the coverage of the at-risk and target population, set against the WHO 2010 target of 75 per cent. The UK has already achieved this target and among European countries is one of the highest achievers.

Hepatitis C awareness campaign (FaCe It)

One of the main aims of the hepatitis C awareness campaign (FaCe It) is to increase diagnosis and there are two national outcome indicators, drawn from epidemiological surveillance by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), intended to track this.

The first indicator is the total number of laboratory confirmed hepatitis C infection reports. There has been a significant increase in hepatitis C diagnoses in England reported to the HPA through national surveillance from around 5,600 in 2002 to around 7,600 in 2005.

The second indicator is the proportion of injecting drug users attending treatment and support agencies who are aware of their hepatitis C infection. The proportion of those who are aware of their hepatitis C infection has increased from 42 per cent. in 2002 to 52 per cent. in 2005.

Research into awareness among general practitioners/practice nurses and the public indicates that awareness of hepatitis C has increased since the campaign began.

Immunisation programme

The routine immunisation programme in the United Kingdom aims to protect all babies and children from the age of two months onwards. The serious diseases that the programme protects against include—diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis), Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b), polio, meningitis C, pneumococcal infection, measles, mumps, rubella.

The impact of advertising and other communication materials are regularly monitored through public surveys involving around 2,000 parents each year. From this we know that more than 70 per cent. of parents use our printed material and that recall of television advertising is high. Health professionals have a high awareness of, and positive reactions to the Departmental/immunisation information materials available.

Mind Out for mental health

In March 2001, the Department launched a national campaign, mind out for mental health, aimed at tackling the stigma and discrimination faced by people with mental health problems. The campaign was aimed at key groups such as employers, the media and young people; as well as the public in general, to help raise awareness of mental health issues and put an end to stigma and discrimination. This campaign came to an end on 31 March 2004. We believe the campaign has been a positive presence but do not have direct evidence of any impact on health indicators.

Teenage pregnancy

Work around reducing teenage pregnancy is based on a number of different strands, one of which is the national campaigning work. It is therefore impossible to separate out these strands when it comes to assessing the overall effectiveness of the work. Teenage pregnancy rates are falling. Between the 1998 baseline year and 2004 (the latest year for which data are available) the under-18 conception rate has fallen by 11.1 per cent. and the under-16 rate has fallen by 15.2 per cent. Both rates are now at their lowest level for 20 years,.

Sexual Health

Evaluation of the sex lottery campaign December 2002 to December 2004, focused primarily on campaign recognition, perceptions about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and condom usage.

In terms of awareness of advertising re STIs, non promoted awareness increased from 35 per cent. at the start to 53 per cent. by the end of the campaign.

In addition there were some significant shifts in attitudes to STIs throughout the life of the campaign in particular in terms of risk ("The risk of getting an STI has increased"—plus 11 per cent.) and in terms of protection ("It doesn't matter how many partners someone has as long as they're careful i.e. use a condom"—plus 9 per cent.)

These changes in attitude are being built on as part of the new adult sexual health campaign, Condom Essential Wear, which was launched in November 2006. Based on social marketing principles the new campaign aims to bring about positive behavioural change as regards sexual health.

Behavioural change takes time and will therefore need to be measured over a number of years. Attitudes and behavioural indicators were benchmarked in November 2006 and the fieldwork for the first phase of campaign evaluation is due to commence in early March 2007.

Smoking

A comprehensive strategy to tackle smoking and to reduce the deaths caused by smoking has been in place since publication of Smoking Kills in 1998. The strategy focuses on action to discourage people from

starting to smoke and to provide support for all smokers, of whatever age and sex, who wish to quit. We are aiming to create a climate where non-smoking is the norm.

We have banned almost all tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotion; introduced strong tobacco pack health warnings; from December 1999 run highly effective national anti-smoking education campaigns raising awareness of the health damage of smoking and secondhand smoke. People who wish to give up smoking can get help from the national health service stop smoking—a world leading programme we set up.

In 2006, Parliament passed the Health Act which includes provision for the prohibition of smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces. This will mean every pub, club, membership club, cafe, restaurant, shopping centre, office and public and work transport will become smoke-free on Sunday 1 July 2007, when the legislation is implemented.

The Government's strategy has helped reduce smoking rates in England from 28 per cent. in 1998 to 24 per cent. in terms of 2005 populations, the latest year for which figures are available, meaning around 1.6 million fewer smokers in England. These are the lowest smoking rates in England on record and indicate that the Government are on track to meet the PSA target of 21 per cent. or lower smoking prevalence in 2010.

Tuberculosis (TB)

In March 2002, the Department launched a national TB Awareness campaign aimed at tackling the stigma and discrimination faced by people with TB. The campaign was launched by celebrities John Fashanu and Patti Boulaye and was aimed at key groups such as Black and Minority Ethnic groups, health professionals, the media; as well as the public in general, to help raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of TB and put an end to stigma and discrimination. Awareness raising for TB is ongoing.

We believe the campaign has been a positive presence but do not have direct evidence of any impact on health indicators.

5 A DAY

The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs annual Household Expenditure Survey for 2005-06 (published January 2007) recorded the biggest increase in fruit and vegetables purchases (7.7 per cent.) for over 20 years. This was aligned to a 6 per cent. decrease in confectionary sales.

The Food Standards Agency Consumer Attitudes Survey 2005 showed that 67 per cent. of people are now aware that they should eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, up from 43 per cent. in 2000.

The 5 A DAY logo was launched by Department on 25 March 2003; over 550 organisations are licensed to use it. The 5 A DAY logo now appears on over 700 fruit and vegetable products in shops and restaurants.

Health Service: Public Participation

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice has been given to primary care trusts on how they should conduct consultations on proposals for changes in healthcare. [134030]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department published 'Strengthening accountability' in 2003. This guidance for national health service bodies on involving patients and the public sets out what NHS organisations must do to meet their responsibilities and the expected outcomes from putting their duty to involve and consult patients and the public into practice.

The Department has also issued 'Overview and Scrutiny of Health – Guidance' in 2003 which sets out the requirements of NHS bodies to consult Overview and Scrutiny Committees on substantial changes to health services.

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether referral of an NHS patient by a GP to an NHS provider gives the provider the authority to treat that patient. [131956]

Andy Burnham: The "Technical notes for Choice at Referral—Guidance Framework for 2006/7" produced by the Department requires that a general practitioner referral, where clinically appropriate, constitutes an authority to treat that patient.

Health Services: Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 383-87W, on primary care trusts: prisons, who is responsible for the *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* provision of healthcare facilities within the private prison estate; who provides such services at each private prison; and if she will make a statement. [134613]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Regional commissioners, on behalf of the chief executive of the National Offender Management Service, commission the prison contractor to provide appropriate healthcare services to meet the requirements of the contract. It is for the contractor to determine how this is delivered for individual establishments. A table of current healthcare providers for the 11 contracted establishments follows.

Contracted sector healthcare provider

Establishment	*Contractor*	*Healthcare Provider*
HMP Altcourse	GSL	Medacs
HMP and YOI Ashfield	Serco	Serco Health
HMP Bronzefield	Kalyx	Surrey PCT
HMP and YOI Doncaster	Serco	Serco Health
HMP Dovegate	Serco	Serco Health
HMP Forest Bank	Kalyx	Salford PCT
HMP Lowdham Grange	Serco	Serco Health
HMP and YOI Parc	G4S	Primecare
HMP Peterborough	Kalyx	Peterborough PCT
HMP Rye Hill	GSL	Primecare
HMP Wolds	GSL	Primecare

Health Services: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the indicative budget is for multi-professional education and training (MPET) in 2007-08; what advice she has given to strategic health authorities on top slicing this budget for strategic reserves; and what estimate she has made of the amount to be top-sliced from the MPET budget in 2007-08. [134162]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The indicative budget for the multi-professional education and training (MPET) in 2007-08 is £4.3 billion, a 3.6 per cent. increase on the 2006-07 indicative budget. No advice has been given to strategic health authorities on top slicing this budget for strategic reserves. Therefore no estimates have been made of the amount that might be top-sliced by strategic heath authorities from the MPET budget in 2007-08.

Health Services: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what communication she has had with *(a)* the North West Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* Warrington Primary Care Trust on the Primary Care Trust's proposal to establish a number of polyclinics in Warrington. [134029]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There has been no communication with the NHS North West or the Warrington Primary Care Trust on the proposals to establish polyclinics.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from members of the public in Warrington about Warrington Primary Care Trust's plans for changes in the way primary healthcare is delivered. [134031]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been five representations from members of the public on Warrington Primary Care Trust's proposals to develop local health services.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has received any representations on the management of Warrington primary care trust (PCT); and what steps she is taking to improve the management of the PCT. [134032]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been no representations on the management of Warrington primary care trust.

Heart Diseases: Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 859W, on heart diseases: accident and emergency departments, which 30 centres offer primary angioplasty; and which offer a 24-hour, seven days a week service. [134102]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are 27 centres that offer primary angioplasty in England. These are shown in the following lists:

Daytime hours only (seven days):

Birmingham City Hospital
Bristol Royal Infirmary
Hemel Hempstead General
John Radcliffe Hospital
Manchester Royal Infirmary
New Cross Hospital
Northwick Park
North Hampshire Hospital
Royal Bournemouth Hospital
Royal Brompton Hospital
Sandwell District General Hospital
Southampton General Hospital
Walsgrave Hospital
Wythenshawe Hospital

24-hours (seven days):

Birmingham Heartlands Hospital
Hammersmith Hospital
Harefield Hospital
Heart Hospital
James Cook University Hospital
Kings College Hospital
London Chest Hospital
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (not week-ends)
Royal Free Hospital
St. George's Hospital
St. Mary's Hospital
St. Thomas' Hospital
Yorkshire Heart Centre

Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost per quality adjusted life year of *(a)* cholesterol testing and diet therapy, *(b)* treatment with statins, *(c)* heart pacemaker insertion, *(d)* cardiac bypass surgery and *(e)* heart transplant; and if she will make a statement. [135307]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* There is a wide range of published data on cost per quality adjusted life year for each of these procedures which suggests that all of these interventions are within an acceptable cost effectiveness range.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recently conducted a health technology appraisal on statins which has updated national policy so that the threshold for national health service intervention with statins has been lowered to encourage their increased use. They are currently working on guidance on lipid management, due out later this year. That guidance will set out any revisions to current policy on targets for controlling cholesterol.

Heart Diseases: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support her Department has made available to Portsmouth city primary care trust to implement chapter 8 of the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease; and what her plans are for future support. [132989]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Responsibility for supporting local national health service services in the delivery of Chapter 8 of the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease, covering arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death, rests with local cardiac networks, in the case of Portsmouth, Central Southern Cardiac Network. The Heart Improvement Programme, a national team located within the national health service, supports the work of cardiac networks, acknowledging the diversity of those that exist to meet local needs, enabling them to communicate and share learning with each other to promote their success.

Homeopathy

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the Government's policy on patient choice will enable patients to choose homeopathy from a local NHS homeopathic clinic or an NHS homeopathic hospital; [136165]

(2) if she will issue guidance to primary care trusts to remind them that homeopathy in the NHS should continue to be an option for all patients; [136173]

(3) whether it is the Government's policy that homeopathic treatment should continue to be provided via NHS homeopathic hospitals; [136174]

(4) whether any patient wishing to choose NHS homeopathic treatment will be able to access it from one of the four NHS homeopathic hospitals over the next five years. [136247]

Caroline Flint: The homeopathic hospitals in the United Kingdom fall under the jurisdiction of the national health service in the area in which they are based. Any decisions on the services any of these hospitals provide are the responsibility of those NHS healthcare organisations.

The Government consider that decision-making on individual clinical interventions, whether conventional, or complementary/alternative treatments, have to be a matter for local NHS service providers and practitioners as they are best placed to know their community's needs. In making such decisions, they have to take into account evidence for the safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness of any treatments, the availability of suitably qualified practitioners, and the needs of the individual patient. Clinical responsibility rests with the NHS professional who makes the decision to refer and who must therefore be able to justify any treatment they recommend. If they are unconvinced about the suitability of a particular treatment, they cannot be made to refer.

The "Our Health, our care, our say" White Paper makes it clear that primary care trusts (PCTs) will be holding practices accountable for the use of public money under practice-based commissioning, and that PCTs will be expected to support practices that are innovative and entrepreneurial. They will be working with them to secure services that are needed locally, for example exploring opportunities to develop complementary or alternative therapies (of which homoeopathy is one example) as a component of patient choice.

Hospices: Expenditure

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines she has provided to primary care trusts on the proportion of their budget which should be spent on *(a)* children's hospices and *(b)* adult hospices. [134524]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None. The level of public funding a hospice receives is a matter for local negotiation between the local primary care trust (PCT), who are responsible for commissioning and funding palliative care services locally, and the hospice. We are currently developing an adult End of Life Care Strategy, which will consider funding for adult hospices and other adult end of life care services.

In November 2005 we issued guidance for commissioners of palliative care services, "Commissioning Children and Young People's Palliative Care Services: A Practical Guide for the NHS Commissioners". This is a practical guide for PCTs and practice based commissioners to help them in identifying local palliative care needs and models of effective delivery.

We have also commissioned an independent review into the future sustainability of palliative care services for children and young people who have a life-limiting or life-threatening condition. This is being led by Professor Sir Alan Craft, Head of Child Health at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Sue Killen, a senior civil servant. We expect to receive their recommendations very shortly.

Hospital Planning

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice was provided to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel by the North East Strategic Health Authority on the issue of a single hospital site north of the Tees. [111486]

Andy Burnham: The Independent Reconfiguration Panel published their report on maternity and paediatric services in North Tees and Hartlepool on 19 January 2007.

The report contains the advice of all the written evidence received, including that of the North East Strategic Health Authority.

Hospitals: Public Transport

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital trusts provide subsidised public transport for their staff; and if she will make a statement. [132315]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The provision of subsidised public transport for national health service staff is determined in line with local employment and transport policies.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department has provided to local NHS trusts on the operation of minimum waiting times for elective clinical and diagnostic procedures. [133772]

Andy Burnham: None.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department plans to publish a tolerance threshold for adherence to the 18 week waiting time target. [131898]

Andy Burnham: The requirements of the national health service in terms of 18 weeks in 2007-08 were set out in the operating framework published in December 2006. These are the March 2008 milestones of 85 per cent. within 18 weeks for admitted patients, 90 per cent. within 18 weeks for non-admitted patients, and all diagnostic tests within six weeks. We expect to set out the requirements that will apply for the target date of December 2008 later in 2007.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the pandemic influenza exercise Winter Willow was conducted on the assumption that the UK had secured its sleeping contract for a pandemic specific vaccination prior to the outbreak of the pandemic. [134115]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The exercise scenario implied that the United Kingdom had secured contracts to obtain pandemic specific vaccine. However, in the scenario, manufacturing delays meant that the UK was unlikely to receive any pandemic specific vaccine during the first wave of a pandemic.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to questions numbers *(a)* 107383 and 107387 tabled on 29 November 2006, *(b)* 106107, 106073, 106110 and 106124 tabled on 23 November 2006, *(c)* 103354 tabled on 21 November 2006 and *(d)* 101934, 101933 and 101728 tabled on 16 November 2006 by the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire. [118120]

Andy Burnham: Answers to all these questions have been given.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department intends to introduce a national tariff for mental health services from April 2009. [131966]

Andy Burnham: There are currently no plans to introduce a national tariff for mental health services from April 2009. However, this does not preclude the piloting of tariffs for a small number of areas in 2009-10.

On 15 March, the Department launched the Payment by Results consultation "Options for the future of Payment by Results: 2008-09 to 2010-11". Information on the ongoing development of tariffs for mental health services is included in Annex B of that document, which is available in the Library.

Mental Patients

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve handling of patients with dementia in general hospitals through *(a)* training of nursing staff, *(b)* increasing awareness of the impact on other patients, *(c)* use of volunteers to support professionals and *(d)* sharing best practice. [134475]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Improving the skills and competencies of all staff in acute settings but particularly those who care for people with dementia is one of the priorities in the Department's older people's mental health programme. In 2006, Let's Respect, an innovative resource tool, went out to acute general hospitals throughout England. This tool is part of a range of educational training and support tools aimed at helping qualified nurses, teach health care assistants and student nurses to recognise and respond to the needs of older people with mental health problems.

In addition to this, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and Social Care Institute for Excellence recently published clinical guideline for dementia. This gives a comprehensive summary of good practice in dementia care that is applicable in all care settings.

Volunteer schemes in hospital settings are the responsibility of local trusts. This includes local recruitment, screening for suitability and training of volunteers who are an important part of the caring work force.

With regards to training, post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service. It is the responsibility of NHS trusts to ensure that their employees are suitably qualified and competent.

Mid Essex Hospital Trust: Administration

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many medical secretaries were employed in the Mid Essex Hospital Trust *(a)* in 2000, *(b)* in 2005, *(c)* in 2006 and *(d)* on the most recent date for which figures are available; [135577]

(2) how many medical secretaries in the Mid Essex Hospital Trust have *(a)* taken voluntary retirement and *(b)* been made redundant and not had their posts replaced in the last 12 months. [135578]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally.

Medical secretaries were not separately identified from the rest of the management and administration grouping in the Department's recent redundancy collection exercise.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the work formerly carried out by in-house medical secretaries in the Mid Essex Hospital Trust is now being carried out by agency staff; and what the effect on costs of the Trust has been in each quarter of the relevant period. [135579]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS Redress Act 2006

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to bring into force the NHS Redress Act 2006. [136141]

Andy Burnham: The National Health Service Redress Act 2006 will require secondary legislation before the redress scheme is enacted.

The Act provides general principles for the provision of redress investigation, explanation, apologies (where appropriate), and ordinarily providing the patient with a copy of the investigation report and a report of action to be taken to prevent similar cases arising. We consider this approach to redress to be one that is appropriate for cases that go beyond financial redress. Shortly, we will be consulting on our proposals for reform of the health and social care complaints processes and we shall be considering the development of redress and complaints procedures in conjunction.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1476-77W, on NHS Treatment Centres: private sector, how many procedures were performed by each independent sector treatment centre in each month since October 2003; and how many procedures each independent sector treatment centre is contracted to provide over the lifetime of the wave one contract. [131876]

Andy Burnham: Information on wave 1 independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) is shown in the following table.

Wave 1 ISTCs—discharges (procedures) per month

	Total discharges at February 2007	*Total procedures expected over the contract period*
Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	8,948	29,566
Midlands NHS Treatment Centre	3,068	60,891
Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre	7,194	21,449
Daventry NHS Treatment Centre	5,157	4,199
Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre	14,736	56,242
Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	11,098	44,863
Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre	5,550	16,511
Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	3,029	26,525
Boston NHS Treatment Centre	2,006	7,255
Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	1,606	6,315
Clifton Park NHS Treatment Centre	1,986	8,638
Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre	3,383	9,551
Capio New Hall NHS Treatment Centre	2,684	11,829
Reading NHS Treatment Centre[1]	345	5,935
Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre[1]	3,040	8,292
Horton NHS Treatment Centre[1]	198	3,624
Kidderminster NHS Treatment Centre	3,209	9,000
Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre	2,204	24,817
Mid Kent NHS Treatment Centre	1,840	55,117
North East London NHS Treatment Centre	340	56,030
St. Mary's NHS Treatment Centre	3,421	34,218
Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre	2,171	19,770
Sussex Orthopaedics NHS Treatment Centre	1,902	26,438
Ophthalmic Chain, Mobile Units	25,280	44,735

[1] Figures are subject to final reconciliation with the provider.

Notes:

Figures are for operational wave 1 ISTCs and exclude centrally procured contracts such as Gsupp, MRI, CWiCs etc. and any diagnostic services delivered by ISTCs.

NHS: Allowances

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2214W, on NHS: allowances, if she will provide a breakdown of the types of items which she expects the allowance to cover; and what methodology her Department used to calculate the £19.60 figure. [134238]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The personal expenses allowance (PEA) was increased to £20.45 with effect from 9 April 2007. The PEA is provided for care home residents to have money to spend, as they wish. The Department has not, therefore, specified what items this money should be spent on other than to say that the PEA cannot be used to pay for services which should be provided as part of the care the home is contracted to provide.

The PEA was set many years ago at a level that was felt to be appropriate. Since then the methodology used for setting the level of PEA has been to increase it annually in line with average earnings so that it maintains its value.

In 2006 the Department held a number of meetings with key stakeholders representing care home residents, to discuss a range of issues relating to charging for residential care, including the PEA. Stakeholders involved have included voluntary organisations such as Age Concern, Help the Aged, the Nursing Home Fees Agency, the Relatives and Residents Association and MENCAP. There will be a further meeting with them before any recommendations are put to Ministers.

The Government are committed to a system of charging for residential care that is fair to residents, their families, taxpayers and is sustainable. Ministers will take these and other factors, including stakeholders' views, into account in deciding whether to make any change to the level of PEA.

NHS: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of each relevant staff group has not yet agreed a contract of employment under *(a)* the new consultants' contract, *(b)* the new general medical services contract and *(c)* Agenda for Change. [131910]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is set out as follows:

As at October 2005 14 per cent. of consultants in England had not moved to the new contract. All new appointments (after October 2003) are automatically made to the new contract. Therefore, this figure will continue to fall.

The new general medical services (GMS) contract is not a contract of employment but a contract for primary medical care services based on a collective provider model of responsibility. General practitioners traditionally fill the role of contractors for provision however increasingly non general practitioners are taking up such roles. Around 60 per cent. of all practitioners operate under GMS contract.

From the information available to us at the end of March 2006 we estimate there were around one per cent. of staff who had not yet assimilated to Agenda for Change terms and conditions of service. The conclusion of appeals and the effect of new appointments will have reduced this figure, but no new data are available.

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultant-to-consultant referrals there were in 2005-06, broken down by primary care trust. [123143]

Andy Burnham: Data on consultant-to-consultant referrals are not collected centrally. Data are collected on general practitioners referrals and other referrals. The category other referrals includes consultant-to-consultant referrals as well as referrals from allied health professionals, nurses, etc. The data on other referrals are in the following table.

Number of other referrals for first out-patient appointment, all specialties, primary care trusts (PCT) in England, 2005-06—commissioner based

Code	*Name*	*Other referrals*
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	18,018
5A4	Havering PCT	32,580
5A5	Kingston PCT	17,475
5A7	Bromley PCT	15,896
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	24,678
5A9	Barnet PCT	22,754
5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	16,956
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	17,591
5C1	Enfield PCT	35,726
5C2	Barking And Dagenham PCT	21,169
5C3	City And Hackney Teaching PCT	33,649
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	31,453
5C5	Newham PCT	35,000
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	42,158
5CC	Blackburn With Darwen PCT	14,192
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	10,798
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	16,169
5D7	Newcastle PCT	38,487
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	26,182
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	7,282
5E1	North Tees PCT	17,458
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	18,987
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	37,441
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	11,708
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	13,504
5F5	Salford PCT	36,637
5F7	Stockport PCT	41,000
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	17,407
5FL	Bath And North East Somerset PCT	17,497
5GC	Luton PCT	11,829
5H1	Hammersmith And Fulham PCT	17,739
5H8	Rotherham PCT	32,196
5HG	Ashton, Leigh And Wigan PCT	40,919
5HP	Blackpool PCT	15,828
5HQ	Bolton PCT	29,564
5HX	Ealing PCT	36,516
5HY	Hounslow PCT	26,128
5J2	Warrington PCT	15,398
5J4	Knowsley PCT	21,011
5J5	Oldham PCT	22,601
5J6	Calderdale PCT	20,884
5J9	Darlington PCT	9,066
5JE	Barnsley PCT	31,763
5JX	Bury PCT	17,071
5K3	Swindon PCT	15,326
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	19,987
5K6	Harrow PCT	11,993
5K7	Camden PCT	20,170
5K8	Islington PCT	39,644
5K9	Croydon PCT	27,349
5KF	Gateshead PCT	25,536
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	15,678
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	38,071
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	17,268
5L1	Southampton City PCT	21,812
5L3	Medway PCT	22,236
5LA	Kensington And Chelsea PCT	16,359
5LC	Westminster PCT	22,721
5LD	Lambeth PCT	33,581
5LE	Southwark PCT	30,457
5LF	Lewisham PCT	29,517
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	27,144
5LH	Tameside And Glossop PCT	27,767
5LQ	Brighton And Hove City PCT	20,265
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	36,152
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	27,310
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	22,250
5M6	Richmond And Twickenham PCT	19,204
5M7	Sutton And Merton PCT	31,859
5M8	North Somerset PCT	19,056
5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	47,457
5MK	Telford And Wrekin PCT	17,791
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	31,081

Number of other referrals for first out-patient appointment, all specialties, primary care trusts (PCT) in England, 2005-06—commissioner based

Code	Name	Other referrals
5MX	Heart Of Birmingham Teaching PCT	27,804
5N1	Leeds PCT	84,565
5N2	Kirklees PCT	37,505
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	23,950
5N4	Sheffield PCT	55,058
5N5	Doncaster PCT	40,785
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	61,517
5N7	Derby City PCT	23,385
5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	67,098
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	53,885
5NA	Redbridge PCT	30,880
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	23,534
5ND	County Durham PCT	54,369
5NE	Cumbria PCT	36,819
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	27,896
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	39,793
5NH	East Lancashire PCT	54,244
5NJ	Sefton PCT	36,558
5NK	Wirral PCT	30,772
5NL	Liverpool PCT	103,608
5NM	Halton And St Helens PCT	26,576
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	34,286
5NP	Central And Eastern Cheshire PCT	43,383
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton And Rochdale PCT	19,738
5NR	Trafford PCT	29,995
5NT	Manchester PCT	91,009
5NV	North Yorkshire And York PCT	73,464
5NW	East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT	23,941
5NX	Hull PCT	24,562
5NY	Bradford And Airedale PCT	29,325
5P1	South East Essex PCT	33,929
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	25,402
5P3	East And North Hertfordshire PCT	50,196
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	31,875
5P5	Surrey PCT	76,455
5P6	West Sussex PCT	79,010
5P7	East Sussex Downs And Weald PCT	19,652
5P8	Hastings And Rother PCT	13,030
5P9	West Kent PCT	56,404
5PA	Leicestershire County And Rutland PCT	81,044
5PC	Leicester City PCT	45,553
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	44,083
5PE	Dudley PCT	18,809
5PF	Sandwell PCT	29,745
5PG	Birmingham East And North PCT	61,357
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	14,290
5PJ	Stoke On Trent PCT	22,789
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	67,032
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	33,493
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	42,159
5PN	Peterborough PCT	17,567
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	62,267
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	47,613
5PR	Great Yarmouth And Waveney PCT	15,362
5PT	Suffolk PCT	71,337
5PV	West Essex PCT	24,626
5PW	North East Essex PCT	24,746
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	42,903
5PY	South West Essex PCT	49,458
5QA	Eastern And Coastal Kent PCT	70,644
5QC	Hampshire PCT	110,977
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	27,042
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	53,175
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	24,568
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	24,412
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	45,696
5QJ	Bristol PCT	43,727
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	34,649
5QL	Somerset PCT	39,343
5QM	Dorset PCT	28,537
5QN	Bournemouth And Poole PCT	47,182
5QP	Cornwall And Isles Of Scilly PCT	40,160
5QQ	Devon PCT	56,127
5QR	Redcar And Cleveland PCT	14,364
5QT	Isle Of Wight NHS Pct	17,664
TAG	Northumberland Care Trust	33,180
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	11,997
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	13,458
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	31,343
	England	5,054,141

Note:
Consultant-to-consultant referrals are included in other referrals along with all remaining referrals that were not GP written referrals such as referrals from an A and E Department; referral from Prosthetist.
Source:
Department of Health Outturn Collection

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many assaults by patients on NHS staff occurred in each year since 1997, broken down by NHS trust; and if she will make a statement. [134473]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* The information has not been collated centrally in the form requested for the period 1997-99. A table outlining the estimated number of reported violent incidents and aggression collected by the Department for 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 for each strategic health authority, national health service trust and primary care trust in England is available in the Library.

In April 2003, the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff. The NHS SMS has collected data on the number of physical assaults on NHS staff in England for the period 2004-05 and 2005-06. A breakdown of figures by reporting period for each NHS trust has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* orphan medicines and *(b)* medicines for orphan diseases have been appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE); what percentage of such medicines received (i) positive, (ii) restricted and (iii) negative guidance on their usage in the NHS; and what percentage of standard medicines considered by NICE received appraisals in each category in the latest period for which figures are available. [131657]

Caroline Flint: Between March 2000 and December 2006 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published a total of 75 technology appraisals of pharmaceutical products, including reviews of existing appraisals. From this total, 15 appraisals covered one or more pharmaceutical products that have been awarded orphan drug status by the US Food and Drug Administration or the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, for the treatment of conditions affecting fewer than 200,000 persons in the United States of America or fewer than five per 10,000 persons in the European Union. Of these:

four appraisals recommended routine use within the licensed indications of the products being appraised (27 per cent.);

10 recommended the use of some but not necessarily all the drugs being appraised for use by specific patient groups (66 per cent.); and

one recommended use in the context of further research (7 per cent.)

Of the remaining 60 technology appraisals;

19 appraisals recommended routine use within the licensed indications of the products being appraised (32 per cent.);

40 recommended the use of some but not necessarily all the drugs being appraised for use by specific patient groups (67 per cent.); and

One recommended use in the context of further research (1 per cent.)

Percentages are rounded to the nearest 1 per cent.

NHS: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the Centrally Funded Initiatives Services and Special Allocations budget for 2005-06 was allocated but underspent on programme budgets for *(a)* cancer, *(b)* CHD, *(c)* mental health and *(d)* reducing health inequalities and workforce; and by how much in each budget. [130340]

Andy Burnham: Of the Centrally Funded Initiatives Services and Special Allocations listed in the parliamentary question, only the programme budget for cancer underspent in 2005-06. The underspend of £296,000 against a budget of £29,624,000 represented a variance of 1 per cent.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which national health service trusts *(a)* have applied for more than the full allocation, *(b)* have applied for less than the full allocation and *(c)* have not applied for any grant allocation under the Capital Challenge Fund Scheme. [133393]

Andy Burnham: The 172 acute trusts in England were eligible to apply to the scheme for up to £300,000. Information on those applying for more is not available centrally, as any such applications received would have been returned for revision. Fourteen trusts applied for less than the full allocation. Four trusts did not apply.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effects of payment by results on the financial position of hospital trusts. [133849]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1477W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether primary care trusts will have their budgets top sliced in 2007-08; which strategic health authorities have informed her that they will ask their local primary care trusts for portions of their allocation to be held in strategic reserves; whether she has discussed with strategic health authorities the size of the reserves to be created in 2007-08; and what advice she has given to strategic health authorities on the size of the contingency fund and central reserve this year. [134098]

Andy Burnham: All national health service organisations are currently in the process of finalising their financial plans for 2007-08.

Strategic health authorities (SHAs), will take responsibility for both developing and implementing a financial and operational strategy to manage and improve the financial position within their overall economy in 2007-08. This could include the creation of SHA reserves.

We have made it clear in the 2007-08 NHS Operating Framework, published 11 December 2006, that SHAs will not generally require the scale of contribution to SHA reserves seen in 2006-07 because of the likelihood of return of the NHS to overall financial health at the end of 2006-07.

We have no current plans to require SHAs to deliver a centrally held contingency in 2007-08. However, as part of the planning process SHAs will need to take a prudent approach to managing their own financial risk while ensuring that they deliver against key policies.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to introduce measures into the NHS work force census to record whether staff are *(a)* hospital and *(b)* community-based. [131904]

Ms Rosie Winterton: At present there are no plans to introduce measures into the national health service work force census to record whether staff are hospital or community-based. This is a matter for The Information Centre and this requirement would be reviewed at a work force information review group meeting the Information Centre regularly hold with key stakeholders.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many directors of public health were employed in the NHS in each year since 1997. [131917]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* consultants, *(b)* registrars, *(c)* senior house officers and *(d)* house officers were (i) newly employed, (ii) made redundant and (iii) promoted in London in each quarter of the last 10 years, broken down by hospital trust; [132142]

(2) how many *(a)* clinical nurse specialists, *(b)* midwives, *(c)* anaesthetists and *(d)* physiotherapists were (i) newly employed, (ii) made redundant and (iii) promoted in London in each quarter of the last 10 years, broken down by hospital trust. [132143]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect centrally information on the number of staff in the national health service who are newly employed or promoted. The annual workforce census records staff in post as at the 30 September each year.

Redundancy data have been collected centrally since April 2006. The first two quarters of 2006-07 were published together in September 2006.

The number of medical staff, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals who have been made redundant in London in each quarter, broken down by hospital trust has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many posts there were for *(a)* clinical nurse specialists, *(b)* midwives, *(c)* anaesthetists and *(d)* physiotherapists in London in each quarter of the last 10 years, broken down by hospital trust; and how many of those posts were vacant in each case. [132145]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally.

NHS: Natural Gas

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contingency plans the Government have in place in the event of gas supplies to the NHS being interrupted. [134413]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government recognise the national health service as a priority user of gas supplies. In the unlikely event of a national gas shortage, supplies would be prioritised to hospitals, other vulnerable sites such as care homes, and to domestic consumers. These resilience activities are reinforced at the local level with NHS organisations required to have (and test on a regular basis) business continuity plans to deal with any local disruption to gas supplies.

NHS: Redundancy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* medical staff, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* midwives, *(d)* allied health professionals, *(e)* health care support workers and *(f)* non-clinical staff were made redundant in the NHS in the first nine months of 2006-07. [131942]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the number of medical staff, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, health care and other support staff workers, healthcare scientists and non clinical staff who were made compulsory redundant in the national health service in the first nine months of 2006-07.

In total there were 1,446 compulsory redundancies of which 79 per cent. were non-clinical staff.

NHS compulsory redundancies as at 31 December 2006—England

	Number
Clinical posts	
Medical compulsory redundancies	41
Nurse compulsory redundancies	190
Midwife compulsory redundancies	9
Non clinical posts	
Allied health professionals compulsory redundancies	50
Healthcare scientists compulsory redundancies	18
Healthcare and other support staff compulsory redundancies	233
Non clinical compulsory redundancies	905
Total	1,446

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many redundancies were made in the NHS in the first nine months of 2006-07, broken down by strategic health authority area. [131943]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the number of compulsory redundancies in the national health service in the first nine months of 2006-07, broken down by strategic health authority area.

In total there were 1,446 compulsory redundancies of which 79 per cent. were non-clinical staff.

Compulsory redundancies April to December 2006

Strategic health authority	*Compulsory redundancies for clinical staff*	*Compulsory redundancies for non-clinical staff*	*Total compulsory redundancies*
East Midlands	5	24	29
East of England	69	107	176
London	90	342	432
North East	2	17	19
North West	16	58	74
South Central	18	93	111
South East Coast	10	143	153
South West	36	111	147
West Midlands	60	207	267
Yorkshire and Humber	2	36	38
England total	308	1,138	1,446

NHS: Rehabilitation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of NHS rehabilitation and intermediate care services. [133626]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Rehabilitation should be part of any effective treatment and care package provided to meet an individual's needs, with a view to enabling them to return to as independent a life as soon as possible.

The national service framework for long-term conditions, published March 2005, addresses in detail the issue of rehabilitation. A range of quality requirements is identified covering early and specialist rehabilitation, community rehabilitation and support, and vocational rehabilitation.

As part of the intermediate care funding announced in the NHS Plan, £66 million capital funding was made available to strategic health authorities in 2002-03 and 2003-04 to expand capacity and to support the development of intermediate care services and in particular a growth in bed numbers.

As at 30 September 2006, there were almost 33,000 intermediate care beds and places. Compared to 1999-2000 the number of intermediate care beds has more than doubled, the number of intermediate care places in non-residential settings has trebled and almost three times as many people benefit from intermediate care.

NHS: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding for training purposes was provided to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2005-06, broken down by SHA; and what the actual expenditure on training was in each authority. [131921]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The funding allocated for training purposes to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2005-06, broken down by SHA, and the actual expenditure on training in each authority as set out in the SHA annual accounts is shown in the table.

£000

SHA	2005-06 MPET allocation	expenditure
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	139,580	131,045
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	69,070	58,122
Birmingham and Black Country	198,876	185,506
Cheshire and Merseyside	177,121	177,099
County Durham and Tees Valley	57,511	51,526
Cumbria and Lancashire	92,100	92,098
Dorset and Somerset	46,971	44,715
Essex	66,711	63,883
Greater Manchester	215,247	215,145
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	124,828	124,530
Kent and Medway	66,956	59,804
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	114,178	113,111
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	134,598	131,709
North and East Yorkshire and N Lincs	73,222	65,670
North Central London	206,788	200,528
North East London	174,578	173,478
North West London	194,520	186,247
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	139,313	133,227
Shropshire and Staffordshire	66,973	59,604
South East London	192,122	183,938
South West London	121,130	118,556
South West Peninsula	95,418	93,273
South Yorkshire	185,604	176,613
Surrey and Sussex	123,470	117,658
Thames Valley	120,849	112,847
Trent	163,835	160,578
West Midlands, South	64,774	60,670
West Yorkshire	171,983	171,457
Total	3,598,326	3,462,637

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1200W, on nurses: schools, if she will provide equivalent figures for *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough. [132309]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information has been placed in the Library. It is not possible to show the number school nurses by London borough, but we can show them by trust.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to raise public awareness of the right of living people to donate organs. [131960]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over the last six years, Government funding through NHS Blood and Transplant has enabled £14 million of investment in hospital based programmes to increase organ donation, including 25 living kidney donor schemes. Since 2001-02, there has been a 77 per cent. increase in living donors.

In addition, in May 2005, a joint initiative between the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries, national health service, Association of Renal Industries, UK Transplant and the Department funded two living donor co-ordinator posts and information booklets for patients and families considering live donation.

The Human Tissue Authority has published an information document detailing the legal and ethical considerations to live donation, including non-directed donation, and the regulatory role it plays in the process following the introduction of the Human Tissue Act 2004.

Patients: Transport

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she plans to take *(a)* to improve

existing transport links between the University Hospital of Hartlepool and University Hospital of North Tees and *(b)* to plan for efficient and effective transport links for patients and visitors to the new hospital to be built by the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust. [133595]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The improvement of any existing services and future planning of effective transport links between the University Hospitals of Hartlepool and North Tees are the responsibility of the local national health service working in partnership with the relevant local transport authorities.

At my recent meeting with the hon. Member, he agreed to meet with local transport authorities, the local NHS and other stakeholders in order to move forward with ideas on how to promote better access and transport links and we welcome this.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the improvement of public transport links for *(a)* patients and *(b)* visitors to NHS hospitals; [133596]

(2) what guidance her Department gives to NHS acute trusts with services split between different sites on the most efficient and effective means of patients travelling *(a)* between sites and *(b)* from one town to another, when those sites are in different towns, to access services. [133597]

Andy Burnham: There have been no recent meetings with the Secretary of State for Transport about arrangements for patients travelling by public transport to, or between, national health service hospital sites. It is for local health service managers, in consultation with the relevant transport authorities, to determine the most suitable travel arrangements.

The Department has issued general best practice guidance to the NHS on developing travel plans and providing adequate transport and car parking. Health Technical Memorandum 07-03, 'Transport management and car-parking', was published in 2006 and copies are available in the Library.

Pharmacy: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is planned to be provided to support the establishment of a Royal College of Pharmacy as envisaged by the White Paper on health regulation. [133577]

Andy Burnham: The short term working party on pharmacy regulation, chaired by Lord Carter of Coles, has recently completed its work. Ministers are considering its conclusions. While the establishment of a Royal College for Pharmacy is largely a matter for the pharmacy profession, the Government have no desire to see the development of either the General Pharmaceutical Council or the proposed Royal College in a manner which is unsustainable.

Primary Health Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1586W, on primary health care, how many primary care centres were built in each year since 1997, broken down by strategic health authority area. [131892]

Andy Burnham: Delivery of the 500 primary care centres referred to in the report "Keeping it personal—clinical case for change" relates to the target set in the NHS plan to create that number of centres by December 2004. This target was achieved with the creation of 510 centres. By the time the report was published on 5 February, data returns by strategic health authorities (SHAs) indicated that the number of primary care centres had significantly increased to 674. A breakdown of this number by SHA is in the following table:

Primary care one stop centres by SHA: as at quarter three 2006-07

	Strategic health authority	Number
	England	674
Q30	North East	61
Q31	North West	77
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	91
Q33	East Midlands	58
Q34	West Midlands	81
Q35	East of England	97
Q36	London	78
Q37	South East Coast	36
Q38	South Central	37
Q39	South West	58

Source:
LDPR Collection.

Prosthetists

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prosthetists were working in the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [132162]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally, prosthetists are not identified separately in the annual workforce census from the rest of the scientific, therapeutic and technical workforce.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are collected as part of the radiotherapy episodes statistics system. [131948]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The radiotherapy episodes statistics (RES) project collects information on patient treatment and usage of radiotherapy machines from radiotherapy centres, and links this with hospital records data extracted from the national Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) database, using information like hospital length of stay, diagnosis and procedures performed.

The linked patient record from the RES system enables us for the first time to track the patient pathway for patients who are admitted for hospital care

and episodes of radiotherapy treatment. It will allow us to see different patient care patterns, and develop and share national comparative information that has not been available before.

A copy of the RES dataset has been placed in the Library. The dataset is collected voluntarily and we are currently standardising the content and definitions of the data collected. We are also seeking full data standards operational approval, so that we can move to a mandated national health service data collection from April 2008 onwards.

Reed Healthcare

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the NHS made to Reed Healthcare plc. between July 2001 and November 2004. [133655]

Andy Burnham: In the period between July 2001 and November 2004, the Department made no payments to Reed Healthcare plc.

Information on payments made by the national health service to individual suppliers is not collected centrally.

Surgery: Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the Royal Colleges on the training of surgeons in modern techniques to treat knife wounds and gunshot traumas. [132718]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Government do not specify the content of the surgical curriculum. This is the job of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB), which is the competent authority for postgraduate medical training in the United Kingdom. PMETB is an independent professional body.

PMETB has agreed with the Royal College of Surgeons syllabi for all surgical specialties. This includes the general surgery syllabus which covers the topics of emergency trauma and the assessment and management of blunt and penetrating injury.

Testicular Cancer: Testosterone

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's policy is on testing men for low testosterone following treatment for testicular cancer. [132167]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not issued guidance on testing men for low testosterone following treatment for testicular cancer.

In the majority of cases, men who have one testicle removed because of testicular cancer do not experience problems with low testosterone levels. Men who have both testicles removed will usually need some form of testosterone replacement therapy (TRT). Some men who have received chemotherapy for the treatment of their testicular cancer may also develop problems related to low testosterone levels.

The range for normal testosterone levels is very wide and this can create difficulties in assessing what constitutes sufficiently low testosterone levels for TRT to be required.

The Department is aware that a working party of the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Radiologists is currently preparing guidance on this topic.

This is an issue which will also be considered alongside other long-term survivorship issues as part of the cancer reform strategy.

Any man who is concerned about low testosterone levels should consult their clinician.

Written Questions

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to reply to Question 111917, on the best treatments service, tabled by the hon. Member for Dartford on 25 January 2007. [133224]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A reply was given on 20 April 2007.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax and Housing Benefits

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many claimants had their council tax benefit reduced for earning over the earnings disregard level in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the value of those reductions was; [136182]

(2) how many claimants had their housing benefit reduced for earning over the earnings disregard level in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the value was of those reductions. [136280]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The most recent available information on those recipients who are subject to a disregard and have earnings brought to account in their assessment are in the table. Information on the value of the deductions is not available.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients with earnings brought to account in Great Britain, as at May 2004

	Number
Housing benefit	327,000
Council tax benefit	294,000

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.
5. The figures are for cases where the claimant and/or partner (if applicable) have income from earnings.
6. The amount of earnings brought to account is the amount after all disregards for earnings and disregards for child care where applicable.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2004.

Crisis Loans: Telephone Services

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Crisis Loans Direct helplines there are; what their hours of operation are; how many lines each helpline has; how many staff operate each helpline; and how many calls to each helpline were aborted in the last 12 months. [133773]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 8 May 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about Social Fund telephony. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. It is intended that by March 2008 Crisis loan applications will be dealt with by 20 Benefit Delivery Centres (BDC) delivering Social Fund nationally. To date 12 Social Fund Delivery Centres have rolled out. This is a new service giving our customers the opportunity to make a claim and receive a decision in the course of a 20 minute telephone call.

Benefit Delivery Centres answer calls Monday to Friday, between 9.00 a.m. and 5 p.m. (10.00 a.m. Wednesday) The amount of lines and the number of staff operating these lines will vary depending on the telephony systems in place at each BDC. The number of staff in BDCs taking calls will fluctuate in response to demands on the service. We do not have statistics on how many calls are aborted.

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1064W, on Departments: marketing, if he will place in the Library *(a)* a copy of the guidelines issued to staff on maintaining his Department's corporate identity and *(b)* a copy of the final 2004 report on the review of his Department's corporate image. [133917]

Mrs. McGuire: As requested, a copy of the DWP Brand Identity Guidelines has been placed in the Library.

The Department carried out a review of its corporate identity and supporting brands in 2004. This was conducted by the Central Office of Information (COI) and comprised research which led to the development of a revised strategy on the use of our brands. This work helped to rationalise our existing brands, the purpose being to improve the customers' experience of the Department and its agencies. This resulted in changes to our corporate identity, which cost £92,751 to implement. A summary of the research report will be placed in the House.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings took place between Ministers and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date of each such meeting was. [131037]

Mrs. McGuire: The following tables detail all meeting with outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March 2007.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Date of meeting	*Outside interest group*	*Reason for meeting*
25 January 2007	Meeting with the lead of the Lyons Review	To discuss council tax benefit
29 January 2007	Fathers Direct	To discuss child poverty
22 February 2007	Directgov	General discussion
22 February 2007	Daycare Trust	To discuss child poverty
22 February 2007	One parent Families	To discuss child poverty
6 March 2007	Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion	To discuss the Freud Review
13 March 2007	MENCAP	To discuss disabled children, carers and poverty issues
27 March 2007	Social Market Foundation	To discuss data sharing
27 March 2007	UFI, University for industry	To discuss the skills agenda
29 March 2007	America Works	To discuss Welfare to Work

Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform

Date of meeting	*Outside interest group*	*Reason for meeting*
1 January 2007	Terence Higgins Trust	To discuss Welfare Reform
11 January 2007	Christian Socialist Movement	To discuss role of faith based groups in Welfare Reform
18 January 2007	Carter & Carter	To discuss employability and skills
25 January 2007	RADAR	To discuss Welfare Reform Bill/RADAR's 'Doing Work Different' project/review of benefit system
1 February 2007	Terence Higgins Trust	To discuss Welfare Reform
20 February 2007	Policy and Services Disability Alliance RADAR National Association for Mental Health Rethink	To discuss Freud review
20 February 2007	Business Commission	To discuss ethnic minority employment
22 February 2007	Age Concern Third Age Employment Network National Association of Welfare Rights Advisers Citizen's Advice Bureau Employment Related Services Association Confederation of British Industry	To discuss Freud review
22 February 2007	One Parent Families	To discuss lone parents and child poverty
26 February 2007	Save the Children London Child Poverty Commission Federation of Small Businesses Child Poverty Action Group	To discuss child poverty
28 February 2007	Elizabeth Finn Care Trust	To discuss National Information Centre

Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform

Date of meeting	Outside interest group	Reason for meeting
5 March 2007	One Parent Families Working Links Work Directions UK Reed IPPR	To discuss the Freud Report
13 March 2007	Social Enterprise Coalition	To discuss social enterprise
14 March 2007	Day Care Trust	To discuss child poverty and child care
14 March 2007	MacMillan Cancer Support	To discuss the Welfare Reform Bill

Minister for Pension Reform

Date of meeting	Outside interest group	Reason for meeting
17 January 2007	Canadian Pensioners Alliance	To discuss pensions uprating—overseas
17 January 2007	Standard Life	To discuss personal accounts
5 March 2007	Resolution Foundation	To discuss pension reform
5 March 2007	Bank of England	To discuss occupational pensions
12 March 2007	Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF)	To discuss personal accounts
14 March 2007	Trade Union Congress	To discuss personal accounts
15 March 2007	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA)	To discuss personal accounts
15 March 2007	Age Concern	To discuss personal accounts
15 March 2007	Carers UK	To discuss personal accounts
15 March 2007	Help the Aged	To discuss personal accounts
15 March 2007	Pension Policy Institute	To discuss personal accounts
15 March 2007	Federation Small Business	To discuss personal accounts

Parliamentary Under Secretary—House of Lords

Date of Meeting	Outside Interest Group	Reason for meeting
24 January 2007	Trades Union Congress	To discuss health and safety
31 January 2007	Sane, Rethink, Disability Alliance, Royal National Institute of the Blind, National Autistic Society, Leonard Cheshire, MacMillan Cancer, Judy Scott Consultancy, Mencap, Arthritis care, Disability Matters, Medical Scientist, Mencap, Mind	To discuss Welfare reform

Parliamentary Under Secretary—House of Lords

Date of Meeting	Outside Interest Group	Reason for meeting
1 February 2007	Shelter, Citizens Advice Bureau, National Housing Federation, Local Authority Association, Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities, London Councils, Chartered Institute of Housing	To discuss welfare reform
1 February 2007	Child Poverty Action Group, Royal National Institute of the Blind, Royal National Institute for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Trade Unions Congress, Disability Alliance, Coalition against the Welfare Reform Bill, RADAR	To discuss welfare reform
6 February 2007	Nottinghamshire County Drug and Alcohol Action Team	To discuss financial support for grandparents caring for grandchildren where their parents are affected by drug abuse.
26 February 2007	The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health	To discuss vocational rehabilitation
5 March 2007	Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF)	To discuss health and safety
6 March 2007	Confederation for the Registration of Gas Installers (CORGI)	To discuss gas safety
8 March 2007	Hazards	To discuss health and safety
14 March 2007	Energy Retail Association (ERA)	To discuss health and safety/gas safety
15 March 2007	One Parent Families	To discuss child maintenance
26 March 2007	Trade Union Congress	To discuss health and safety
27 March 2007	Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (AVECO)	To discuss mental health and employment
29 March 2007	Britain's General Union (GMB)	To discuss health and safety

Parliamentary Under Secretary—House of Commons

Date of meeting	Outside interest group	Reason for meeting
26 February 2007	Money Advice Trust	To discuss financial inclusion

Parliamentary Under Secretary (Disabled People) - House of Commons

Date of meeting	Outside interest group	Reason for meeting
10 January 2007	Rehabilitation Council	To discuss potential support
15 January 2007	SENSE	To meet Sense staff and to discuss Access to Work and suggest how it could be improved

Parliamentary Under Secretary (Disabled People) - House of Commons

Date of meeting	Outside interest group	Reason for meeting
31 January 2007	CARERS UK	To discuss the complex realities of Carers lives and the long term strategy to improve carers opportunities and ability to access employment
7 February 2007	Joseph Rowntree Foundation	To discuss social care funding
8 March 2007	British Paralympic Association	To discuss post 2012 Olympic legacy
8 March 2007	Dial UK	To discuss financial difficulties faced by user-led organisations

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in his Department who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement; [131564]

(2) how many people in his Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [131435]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answers 16 April 2007]:* The Cabinet Office continues to work with Departments and agencies to do all that is possible to minimise compulsory redundancies.

Where insufficient volunteers are forthcoming for a flexible scheme, as a pre-redundancy measure, Departments and agencies may call for volunteers to leave on compulsory terms in order to avoid compulsory redundancy procedures.

The Civil Service Compensation Scheme provides compensation for civil servants retired early. It covers most permanent civil servants, including those who have opted out of all civil service pension arrangements.

The CSCS can provide payments under the following categories:

Compulsory early retirement for staff age 50 or over who are made redundant;

Compulsory early severance for staff age under 50 who are made redundant;

Flexible early retirement for staff who retire after age 50 because of limited efficiency, limited postability or departmental restructuring; and

Flexible early severance for staff who leave before age 50 because of limited efficiency, limited postability or departmental restructuring

Approved early retirement. This allows Departments with surplus staff to invite volunteers for early retirement from those age 50 (age 55 for new joiners on or after 6 April 2006) and over with five years qualifying service. Staff aged 55 with over 25 years service can also apply.

Figures as follows:

(a) There have been no involuntary releases.

(b) Voluntary figures

	£0 to £25,000	£25,001 to £50,000	£50,001 to £75,000	£75,001 to £100,000	Over £100,000	Annual total
1998	1,756	328	14	1	3	2,102
1999	110	59	15	8	2	194
2000	83	48	11	9	1	152
2001	66	17	9	2	0	94
2002	47	6	0	5	1	59
2003	38	8	1	0	0	47
2004	68	34	11	2	2	117
2005	275	336	143	30	26	810
2006	1,540	915	248	51	51	2,805
2007	1,141	721	160	20	12	2,054

The aforementioned figures supplied include pension lump sums and compensation lump sums.

Disability Living Allowance: Medical Examinations

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of disability living allowance claimants receive benefit after *(a)* self-assessment, *(b)* GP referral and *(c)* independent medical assessment. [131828]

Mrs. McGuire: For new disability living allowance claims for the period April 2006 to March 2007, where benefit was awarded, 10.09 per cent. were awarded on self-assessment, 50.35 per cent. were awarded on GP referral, and 10.50 per cent. were awarded following independent medical assessment.

The totals are less than 100 per cent. as there are other routes to an award of disability living allowance. The information for these other routes are: benefit awarded on additional information, 6.38 per cent.; benefit awarded on non fee paying referral, for example, physiotherapist or hospital consultant, 21.38 percent.; benefit awarded using form 1B85, 1.30 per cent.

Incapacity Benefit Appeals

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answers of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 622W and 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1488W, on incapacity benefit appeals, what the reasons are for the time taken between the lodging of an appeal with the first tier agency and the referral of the appeal to the Tribunals Service; and what measures he is putting in place to improve performance. [132126]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 8 May 2007:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking what the reasons are for the time taken between the lodging of an Incapacity Benefit appeal with the first tier agency and the referral of the appeal to the Tribunals Service and what measures he is putting in place to improve performance. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

When an appeal is received and before it is submitted to the Tribunal Service, a reconsideration must be carried out. The Decision Maker has to consider all legal issues raised by the claimant or their representative, which may entail obtaining unreported Commissioner's decisions or referral for guidance to the Adjudication and Constitutional Issues Branch. Where additional medical evidence is received in support of the appeal it is sometimes necessary to refer the matter to Medical Services for further medical opinion.

If the decision cannot be revised in the claimant's favour then the Decision Maker prepares an appeal submission; which requires a full explanation of the decision in relation to the legislation and careful consideration of case law.

The reconsideration and appeal submission must be accomplished within a Jobcentre Plus benchmark target of 50 days. This year to date we have averaged around 38 days for Incapacity Benefit appeals.

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were on means-tested benefits in each of the last 15 years; what assessment he has made of the merits of means testing; and if he will make a statement. [134495]

Mr. Plaskitt: Income-related benefits are intended to help those people whose resources are insufficient to meet their day-to-day living expenses. By relating a claimant's income to their entitlement to these benefits, we can ensure that help is available to those who most need it.

The available information is in the following table.

Income-related benefit recipients: Great Britain, at May each year 1990 to 2004

	Number
1990	7,910,000
1991	7,760,000
1992	8,150,000
1993	8,250,000
1994	8,220,000
1995	8,160,000
1996	7,970,000
1997	7,530,000
1998	7,190,000
1999	6,970,000
2000	6,660,000
2001	6,470,000
2002	6,290,000
2003	6,250,000
2004	6,480,000

Notes:
1. Income-related benefits are: income support; income-based jobseeker's allowance; pension credit; housing benefit; and community charge benefit/council tax benefit.
2. Overlaps between benefits have been removed.
3. Due to the estimation procedure used to remove the overlaps between housing benefit and council tax benefit, figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.
4. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
5. Income support and jobseeker's allowance 5 per cent. figures have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. totals of WPLS data.
6. Housing benefit data exclude any extended payment cases.
7. Council tax benefit data exclude second adult rebate cases.
8. Jobseeker's allowance replaced income support for the unemployed in October 1996.
9. Pension credit replaced minimum income guarantee in October 2003.

Source:
Information Directorate, 1 per cent. and 5 per cent. samples; 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study; Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. Sample.

National Insurance: Fraud

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of fraudulent applications for national insurance numbers in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [132087]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Information regarding the number of applications for national insurance number applications refused where there was a doubt about the identity of the individual is in the following table:

Applications for national insurance numbers refused due to doubt about the identity of an individual

	Number
2003-04	419
2004-05	574
2005-06	772
2006-07	1,020

Pay: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 123623, on women's earnings, tabled by the hon. Member for Northavon on 21 February. [129409]

James Purnell *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1717W.

Pensions: Automated Credit Transfer

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners received their pension *(a)* via direct debit into their bank accounts and *(b)* through Post Office accounts in the latest month for which data are available. [136357]

Mr. Plaskitt: The following table shows how many pensioners received their state retirement pension *(a)* via Direct Payment into their bank accounts and *(b)* through Post Office card accounts in March 2007.

	Number
Direct Payment	7,736,200
Post Office card account	1,761,930

Notes:
1. Figures have been provided by DWP Information Directorate
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures are taken from the latest available data at 17 March 2007.
4. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
5. People with more than one benefit account paid through POca are counted more than once.

Remploy: Consultants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost has been since 2001 of consultants hired to report on Remploy. [133083]

Mrs. McGuire: Excluding public appointment recruitment costs, since 2001 the Department has spent £987,193 on consultants hired to report on Remploy.

Excluding public relations and recruitment costs, Remploy has spent £92,115.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were on benefits in each of the last 15 years. [134487]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Consistent time-series figures are not available prior to 1999 other than for housing benefit and council tax benefit. It is not possible to remove the overlap between housing benefit, council tax benefit, and other DWP benefits. The available information is in the following tables.

Working age client group caseload by statistical group in Great Britain as at August each year

	Job seeker	Incapacity benefits	Lone parent	Carer
1999	1,199,720	2,655,390	945,060	316,020
2000	1,040,250	2,714,850	920,100	309,530
2001	935,920	2,763,800	900,220	323,940
2002	919,220	2,769,620	875,040	340,000
2003	880,120	2,777,170	851,730	350,520
2004	798,290	2,775,050	818,100	360,170
2005	856,300	2,725,540	789,350	364,800
2006	931,450	2,683,130	783,190	369,520

	Others on income related benefit	Disabled	Bereaved	Unknown
1999	222,440	—	—	210,240
2000	198,220	—	—	205,330
2001	176,980	—	—	192,340
2002	168,810	250,120	190,100	—
2003	156,840	270,540	170,070	—
2004	159,610	289,510	151,710	—
2005	153,630	305,620	138,050	—
2006	153,000	318,970	125,960	—

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Statistical group is a hierarchical variable. A person will only appear first group for which they are eligible; for example, a claimant receiving both jobseekers allowance and disability living allowance would be counted in "jobseeker" and not "disabled".
3. "Job seeker" means those claiming jobseeker's allowance.
4. "Incapacity benefits" means those claiming incapacity benefit or disability living allowance.
5. "Lone parent" means those claiming income support with a dependant child under 16 and no partner.
6. "Carer" means those entitled to carer's allowance.
7. "Other income-related benefit" means those on income support or pension credit not in higher groups.
8. "Disabled" means those entitled to disability living allowance or attendance allowance.
9. "Bereaved" means those entitled to bereavement benefit or widow's benefit.
10. "Unknown" means those not in higher group (prior to 2002 it is not possible to split the disabled and bereaved categories).
11. Figures for carer's allowance and disability living allowance include those cases with entitlement but where payment is suspended (for example, because the claimant is in hospital). *Source:* DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Pension age client group caseloads in receipt of key benefits in Great Britain, as at November each year

	Number
1999	10,338,400
2000	10,366,900
2001	10,441,900

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. "Key Benefits" are attendance allowance, disability living allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, minimum income guarantee, and state pension.
3. Incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and state pension claimants living overseas are not included.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, five per cent sample.

Pension age client group caseloads Great Britain and overseas, as at November each year

	Number
2002	11,383,960
2003	11,515,970
2004	11,668,110
2005	11,786,580
2006	11,896,500

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Client group benefits include: attendance allowance; bereavement benefit; carer's allowance; disability living allowance; incapacity benefit; severe disablement allowance; income support; minimum income guarantee; pension credit; state pension; and widow's benefit.
3. Figures for carer's allowance and disability living allowance include those cases with entitlement but where payment is suspended (for example, because the claimant is in hospital).
Source:
DWP Information Directorate, 100 per cent Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit caseloads by whether other income-related benefits are in payment in Great Britain, as at August each year

	Housing benefit		Council tax benefit	
	Without IS/JSA/PC	With IS/JSA/PC	Without IS/JSA/PC	With IS/JSA/PC
1992	1,691,920	2,646,010	2,748,920	3,904,570
1993	1,667,470	2,911,760	2,255,660	3,144,240
1994	1,624,370	3,043,090	2,144,000	3,408,260
1995	1,613,530	3,138,240	2,086,400	3,537,980

Housing benefit and council tax benefit caseloads by whether other income-related benefits are in payment in Great Britain, as at August each year

	Housing benefit		Council tax benefit	
	Without IS/JSA/PC	*With IS/JSA/PC*	*Without IS/JSA/PC*	*With IS/JSA/PC*
1996	1,642,190	3,119,310	2,032,120	3,564,030
1997	1,620,900	2,971,020	2,010,300	3,436,500
1998	1,600,520	2,824,690	1,989,160	3,291,790
1999	1,507,310	2,736,100	1,892,690	3,190,680
2000	1,364,940	2,603,310	1,712,880	3,043,370
2001	1,238,280	2,629,200	1,557,790	3,110,680
2002	1,154,980	2,643,780	1,452,430	3,137,260
2003	1,095,560	2,718,010	1,421,140	3,231,730
2004	1,074,320	2,869,270	1,434,360	3,458,250
2005	1,095,520	2,885,500	1,471,290	3,526,670
2006	1,102,070	2,922,210	1,480,840	3,606,810

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are for benefit units, which may be a single person or couple.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude extended payment cases.
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.
5. Figures for any non-responding local authorities have been estimated.
6. "IS" means income support.
7. "JSA" means income-based jobseeker's allowance.
8. "PC" means pension credit.
9. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003, prior to that pensioners received income support or minimum income guarantee.
10. Income support for the unemployed was replaced by income-based jobseeker's allowance in October 1996.

Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 1992 to August 2006.

Social Security Benefits: Care Homes

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which means tested benefits people resident in residential care homes are eligible to claim. [135325]

Mr. Plaskitt: People in care homes can claim income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or pension credit; entitlement to these benefits will depend on their individual circumstances. There is a more generous capital disregard for all these benefits for claimants living in care homes.

Except for a few claimants with preserved rights, housing benefit is not available to care home residents.

As care home residents do not have a council tax liability they have no entitlement to council tax benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total welfare expenditure was, including tax credits, in the financial years *(a)* 1991-92, *(b)* 1996-97, *(c)* 2001-02 and *(d)* 2006-07; and what the (i) actual and (ii) percentage change in expenditure was between each of those years. [136109]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is in the two tables as follows.

Table 1: Total welfare expenditure (excluding tax credits)

£ million

	Financial years			
	(a) 1991-92	*(b) 1996-97*	*(c) 2001-02*	*(d) 2006-07*
Expenditure	66,303	92,212	106,683	119,267

Table 2: Total welfare expenditure (excluding tax credits)

	Financial years		
	1991-92 to 1996-97	*1996-97 to 2001-02*	*2001-02 to 2006-07*
Actual change (£ million)	25,909	14,471	12,584
Percentage change	28.1	13.6	10.6

Notes:
1. The figures are in nominal (cash) terms and are rounded to the nearest million.
2. Figures exclude tax credits. Tax credits are the responsibility of HMRC.
3. All figures other than 2006-07 are outturn. 2006-07 are estimated outturn figures.

Source:
DWP Expenditure tables consistent with Budget 2007

Social Security Benefits: Payments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average period of time elapsed between application for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* council tax benefit and *(c)* housing benefit and receipt of the first payment by a claimant in each of the last three years. [134642]

Mr. Plaskitt: The requested information is in the following tables.

Jobseekers allowance average actual clearance times in days per financial year

	Days
2004-5	12.1
2005-6	14.5
2006-7	14.3

Note:
The average actual clearance times for jobseekers allowance claims is measured from the date of claim registration to the date a decision or payment notification is issued to the customer.

Source:
DWP Management Information System Programme

Average days to process housing benefit and council tax benefit claims per financial year

	2005-06	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
Housing benefit claims	37	45	50
Council tax Benefit claims	36	47	52

Note:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit processing times are measured from the date of receipt of the claim to the date a decision if made on the claim by the local authority.

Source:
Local Authority Management Information returns to DWP.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in retirement benefits in total to *(a)* couples, *(b)* single men and *(c)* single

women where the recipients were aged (i) 60 to 64, (ii) 65 to 69, (iii) 70 to 74, (iv) 75 to 79 and (v) over 79 years in the latest period for which figures are available. [132494]

James Purnell: The information requested is in the following table.

Total expenditure on pensioner benefits by family type

£ million

Age group	*Single men*	*Single women*	*Couples*	*All*
60-64	602	2,812	4,407	7,821
65-69	2,106	3,296	9,368	14,770
70-74	1,837	3,736	7,575	13,148
75-79	1,593	4,258	5,324	11,175
Over 80	2,906	9,025	3,937	15,868
Total	9,044	23,127	30,611	62,782

Notes:

1. The pensioner benefit figures include expenditure on state pension, bereavement benefits for pensioners, pension credit and winter fuel payments.
2. The figures are expenditure across Great Britain and have been rounded to the nearest million pounds.
3. Total expenditure on pension benefits is taken from the provisional outturn for 2006-07 as published at Budget 2007.
4. The breakdown of pension credit expenditure between groups is based on the estimated proportions in 2006-07, consistent with Budget 2007 forecasts, projected forward from Departmental Administrative Sources.
5. The breakdown of winter fuel payment expenditure between age groups is based on a 100 per cent. sample of administrative records in 2005-06. Full payments have been broken down by family type using estimated proportions taken from Family Resources Survey 2005-06. Half payments are paid only to couples.
6. For pension credit and winter fuel payments a couple is defined as two people who are married or cohabiting. For state pension and bereavement benefits for pensioners, the definition of a couple is people who are married. Single people are all those who are not married (including those who may be widowed or divorced). The classification of marital status is based on an indicator on the dataset which has some known reliability issues and so may not be entirely accurate.
7. Expenditure on couples has been allocated to age groups according to the age of the partner actually receiving each payment; except for pension credit, where the expenditure cannot be allocated to individual partners, so the age of the elder partner is used.
8. The expenditure for men aged 60-64 are for pension credit and winter fuel payments only. State pension is paid only to men over state pension age, i.e. aged 65 years and over. Only bereavement benefits paid to those over state pension age are included.

Source:

Departmental Administrative Sources. Provisional out-turn accounting data for 2006-07 as published for Budget 2007. Family Resources Survey 2005-06.

Welfare to Work: Reform

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions he and his ministerial colleagues met David Freud prior to 18 December 2006. [127733]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Secretary of State met David Freud on 28 November 2006 and I met David Freud on 4 December 2006. No other departmental Ministers met David Freud prior to 18 December 2006.

TREASURY

Average Earnings

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average hourly pay was of the *(a)* (i) lowest and (ii) highest decile, *(b)* (A) lowest and (B) highest quartile and *(c)* (I) lowest and (II) highest duo-decile as a percentage of the (x) average hourly pay and (y) average weekly wage of working people in employment in each year since 1997. [136393]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 8 May 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average hourly pay was of (a) (i) lowest and (ii) highest decile, (b) (A) lowest and (B) highest quartile and (c) (I) lowest and (II) highest duo-decile, as a percentage of (x) average hourly pay and (y) average weekly wage of working people in employment in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (136393)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. This is the standard definition used for ASHE. The ASHE does not collect information on the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

I attach tables showing the 5th, 10th, 25th, 75th, 90th and 95th percentile of Gross Hourly Pay, corresponding to the lowest duo-decile, lowest decile, lowest quartile, highest quartile, highest decile, and highest duo-decile respectively, for all employees, for the years 1997-2006. The tables also show the median average hourly pay, and weekly wage in each year since 1997, and the percentage of these values that the percentiles represent.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a one per cent sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Gross hourly earnings for all employee[1] jobs

£

UK	*5th percentile*	*10th percentile*	*25th percentile*	*75th percentile*	*90th percentile*	*95th percentile*
1997	3.35	3.81	4.96	10.64	5.29	18.98
1998	3.50	4.00	5.13	11.12	5.96	19.98
1999	3.75	4.18	5.36	11.55	6.69	20.96
2000	3.96	4.36	5.56	12.03	7.27	21.81
2001	4.08	4.53	5.79	12.62	8.27	23.51
2002	4.35	4.78	6.00	13.18	9.21	24.72
2003	4.55	5.01	6.30	13.68	9.93	25.66
2004 excl.[2]	4.77	5.21	6.56	14.28	0.75	26.67
2004 inc.[2]	4.75	5.18	6.50	14.15	20.49	26.15
2005	4.99	5.36	6.71	14.71	21.42	27.38
2006	5.15	5.57	6.99	15.33	22.29	28.45

As a percentage of hourly pay

	5th percentile	*10th percentile*	*25th percentile*	*75th percentile*	*90th percentile*	*95th percentile*	*Average hourly pay[3]*
1997	47.4	53.9	70.2	150.5	216.3	268.5	7.07
1998	47.6	54.3	69.7	151.1	216.8	271.5	7.36
1999	49.0	54.6	70.0	150.8	217.9	273.6	7.66
2000	49.9	55.0	70.1	151.7	217.8	275.0	7.93
2001	49.3	54.7	69.9	152.4	220.7	283.9	8.28
2002	50.5	55.5	69.6	152.9	222.9	286.8	8.62
2003	50.8	56.0	70.4	152.8	222.7	286.7	8.95
2004 excl.[2]	51.0	55.7	70.2	152.7	221.9	285.2	9.35
2004 inc.[2]	51.3	55.9	70.2	152.8	221.3	282.4	9.26

As a percentage of hourly pay

	5th percentile	10th percentile	25th percentile	75th percentile	90th percentile	95th percentile	Average hourly pay[1]
2005	52.2	56.1	70.2	153.9	224.1	286.4	9.56
2006	51.8	56.0	70.3	154.1	224.0	285.9	9.95

As a percentage of weekly pay

	5th percentile	10th percentile	25th percentile	75th percentile	90th percentile	95th percentile	Average weekly pay[2]
1997	1.2	1.4	1.8	4.0	5.7	7.1	268.9
1998	1.2	1.4	1.8	4.0	5.7	7.1	280.2
1999	1.3	1.4	1.8	4.0	5.8	7.2	290.0
2000	1.3	1.5	1.9	4.0	5.8	7.3	299.6
2001	1.3	1.4	1.9	4.0	5.8	7.5	312.5
2002	1.3	1.5	1.8	4.1	5.9	7.6	324.8
2003	1.4	1.5	1.9	4.1	6.0	7.7	334.8
2004 excl[3]	1.4	1.5	1.9	4.1	5.9	7.6	349.6
2004 inc[3]	1.4	1.5	1.9	4.1	5.9	7.6	345.5
2005	1.4	1.5	1.9	4.2	6.1	7.8	349.1
2006	1.4	1.5	1.9	4.2	6.1	7.8	364.1

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
[3] Median gross hourly pay.
[4] Median gross weekly pay.

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Child Trust Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid to Alvin Hall to promote the Child Trust Fund; and what activities he has undertaken. [130402]

Ed Balls: Mr. Hall is an independent financial advisor, television presenter and author, who specialises in giving easy-to-understand advice to the public on their financial investments.

He has been employed since October 2005 to assist HMRC with its efforts to encourage parents to open and contribute to Child Trust Fund (CTF) savings accounts for their children, and he has been paid a total of £75,000 since that date. His activities in that period have included:

providing interviews to national and specialist parenting publications, including information about the CTF and savings tips for parents;

helping to produce a simple guide for parents to choose the CTF account which is right for their circumstances;

contributing to an interactive film which helps parents to understand the account-opening process, run in ante-natal clinics and other outlets;

providing advice on the CTF during parent-and-child sessions at baby show events; and

providing interviews throughout CTF week in January 2007, encouraging parents to engage in their children's CTF accounts, including contributing to advertorials and the CTF pack going out to parents across the country.

Climate Change Levy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons clean electricity generated using carbon capture and storage technology is subject to the climate change levy. [135581]

John Healey: The climate change levy is a tax on non-domestic use of energy aimed at promoting energy efficiency. As there are currently no commercial-scale power generation plants in the UK which deploy carbon capture and storage the issue of liability to pay the levy in respect of electricity generated from such plants does not arise.

At Budget 2007 the Government announced a competition to launch the UK's first full-scale carbon capture and storage demonstration. This demonstration will provide the evidence which will enable us to take informed policy decisions, including on taxation issues.

Coinage

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what powers are available to him in relation to the recovery of costs to the public purse caused by decisions by private sector companies in relation to coinage use and supply; [135934]

(2) how much and what proportion of the £3.8 million cost of the increase in demand for coinage in 2006-07 was attributable to Tesco changing its supplier for cash; [135935]

(3) whether he plans to recover the cost to the public purse in relation to coinage in 2006-07 arising from Tesco's change of cash supplier from *(a)* Tesco and *(b)* Tesco's new supplier of cash. [135936]

Ed Balls: It is Government policy to meet demand for UK coinage. This minimises the risk that the public or businesses might find themselves short of coins, which in turn might restrict economic activity. The Treasury pays for the production of UK circulating coins while the Exchequer receives all seignorage. Overall, this generates a net inflow of capital for the public purse. Fluctuations in demand for UK coinage can occur for a variety of reasons and it is not normally possible to quantify the impact of any one specific factor.

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by his Department with outside suppliers in the last five years, as referred to in the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1431-32W, on information technology. [135610]

John Healey: All of the contracts had been completed when I answered the hon. Gentleman's earlier question.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Ministerial red boxes his Department bought in each of the last five years; and how much each cost. [134951]

John Healey: During the last five years HM Treasury has purchased only one box pouch in 2005-06 and just one despatch box in 2006-07. The total cost including VAT was £1,388 and £511 respectively.

Departments: Occupational Health

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's employees suffered injuries while on duty in each year since 1997. [134615]

John Healey: It is the Treasury's departmental policy to log all reports of accidents to assist with the effectiveness of its accident-prevention measures and its health and safety training for staff. The number of accidents recorded for the last six years which were reported as having caused injuries are as follows:

	HMT
2001-02	14
2002-03	24
2003-04	13
2004-05	15
2005-06	6
2006-07	3

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths in *(a)* Gloucestershire, *(b)* the Forest of Dean, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK have been attributed to the illegal use of ketamine in the last five years. [136072]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 8 May 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths in (a) Gloucestershire, (b) the Forest of Dean, (c) England and (d) the UK have been attributed to the illegal use of ketamine in the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (136072)

The most recent year for which figures are available is 2005. The table below shows the number of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug-related poisoning, where ketamine was mentioned on the death record, for England and the United Kingdom for the calendar years 2001 to 2005. There were no drug-related poisoning deaths which mentioned ketamine registered to residents of Gloucestershire or the Forest of Dean between 2001 and 2005.

In January 2006, ketamine was re-classified as a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. However, during the period covered in the table below ketamine was not given a misuse classification. It is therefore not possible to tell from ONS mortality data whether the use of ketamine in these deaths was illegal.

Number of deaths from drug-related poisoning where ketamine was mentioned on the death record[1], England and United Kingdom[2], 2001 to 2005[3]

	England	*United Kingdom*
2001	2	3
2002	1	1
2003	3	3
2004	1	1
2005	0	0

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14 and where ketamine was mentioned on the death record. This includes deaths where ketamine was mentioned alone and where ketamine was mentioned with other substances. Where multiple substances are mentioned in the death record it is not possible to tell which of them was primarily responsible for the death.

[2] Figures refer to deaths to residents of England and to all deaths within the United Kingdom.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Euro Preparations Unit

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 98W, on Economic and Monetary Union, how many people were employed by the Euro Preparations Unit in each year since 1997, broken down by grade. [131378]

Ed Balls: There are currently two individuals at Range D and Range E working on Euro Preparations, and contributing as necessary to other EUCS-led work.

The number of people in the Euro Preparations Unit (EPU) as at 31 March in each previous year is as follows:

	Staff	*Range A*	*Range B*	*Range C*	*Range D*	*Range E*	*Range F*
1998	4	—	1	—	1	1	1
1999	15	1	3	—	4	6	1
2000	13	—	3	1	4	4	1
2001	13	—	2	1	5	4	1
2002	15	—	3	2	5	4	1
2003	17	—	3	2	6	6	—
2004	15	—	4	2	5	3	1
2005	9	1	2	—	4	2	—
2006	4	—	—	1	1	1	1

Excise Duties: Invalid Vehicles

Mr. Osten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce a moratorium on new duties imposed on mobility scooters imported to the UK to allow time for discussions with the wheelchair and scooter industry. [136365]

John Healey: Import duties are established by the European Commission and European Community law imposes obligations on member states to ensure that the correct amount of import duty is collected within prescribed time periods.

HM Revenue and Customs: Compensation

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many payments for *(a)* worry and distress and *(b)* complaint delay were made by HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months. [135459]

John Healey: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Individual Savings Accounts

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of people in Copeland who will

establish individual savings accounts as a result of the changes announced in the 2007 Budget. [135494]

Ed Balls: The Government announced in the pre-Budget report that it will simplify the Individual Saving Account (ISA) regime, making it more flexible for savers and providers and, in order to encourage further saving in ISAs, the Government announced in the Budget that the annual ISA investment limit will rise to £7,200 and the cash limit will rise to £3,600. All changes will come into effect from April 2008.

The changes to the investment limits announced in the Budget will benefit around 5.5 million individuals in the UK who are currently making full use of either their cash or overall investment limits.

Estimates of the number of individuals affected are not available at a constituency level.

International Monetary Fund

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what his estimate is of the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net flows of remittances from the UK using IMF Balance of Payments Manual definitions for the most recent period for which figures are available; and what the principal countries are to which those remittances flow. [135728]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 8 May 2007:

The National Statistician has have been asked to reply to your question asking what the estimate is of the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net flows of remittances from the UK using IMF Balance of Payments Manual definitions for the most recent period for which figures are available; and what the principal countries are to which those remittances flow. I am replying in her absence. (135728)

ONS do not publish separate estimates for flows of workers' remittances, as defined by the IMF Balance of Payments manual. Estimates of remittance flows are included in the UK Balance of Payments "Pink Book", table 5.1, within the published series for other receipts of and payments by households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH).

There are components produced at a lower level than these published data, which are close, in concept, to the IMF definitions of workers' remittances. However these estimates are highly uncertain which is why they are not published separately on a regular basis.

ONS estimate that in recent years on average remittances comprise around 75 per cent. of the series published in the Pink Book for total private transfers by households and NPISH. For 2005, the most recent year for which data are available, the component estimate for gross flows of remittances from the UK is £3.7 billion and the component estimate for net flows of remittances from the UK households, calculated as remittances from the UK less remittances received by the UK, is £1.4 billion. However it should be stressed that these estimates are highly uncertain.

The ONS do not produce a full breakdown of remittance flows from the UK based on the country of destination or publish regularly any breakdown of these flows. However ONS estimates of the main countries to which these remittances flow reflect the main diasporas communities in the UK, with the largest estimates of flows being to the Republic of Ireland, India and Pakistan.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 29 March regarding a constituent, ref: 1/48830/2007. [136603]

Ed Balls: I have done so today.

Mortgages: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the average outstanding balance on mortgages for homes in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* Dacorum; and what the typical month's interest payable on each of those balances was at the latest date for which figures are available. [135327]

Ed Balls: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes data on mortgage debt and the number of mortgages in the UK on their website at

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

It does not routinely publish data at the county or district levels.

Data on the average level of mortgage interest payments by Government Office Region are available from the ONS Expenditure and Food Survey, Table 2.11.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_social/Family_Spending_2005-06/table2-11.xls

MRSA: Death

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths from MRSA contracted in NHS facilities there were in the period *(a)* 1987 to 1997 and *(b)* 1997 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [136299]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 8 May 2007:

The National Statistician has have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from MRSA contracted in NHS facilities there were in the period (a) 1987 to 1997 and (b) 1997 to 2007. I am replying in her absence. (136299)

Special analyses of deaths involving MRSA are undertaken annually by ONS for deaths which occurred in England and Wales. Data are only available from 1993 onwards and the most recent year available is 2005.

Death certificates rarely specify the place where an infection was acquired. Numbers of deaths from MRSA contracted in NHS facilities can therefore not be provided. Death certificates do, however, record the place of death. The table below presents the number of deaths mentioning MRSA by place of death from 1993 to 2005.

Most deaths occur in hospital, and the majority of deaths involving MRSA therefore also occur in hospital. Many deaths involving MRSA are to patients who were admitted to hospital because they were already seriously ill with another condition. MRSA only tends to cause problems if a person is already unwell, or if their immune system is suppressed, or if it can get into the bloodstream (through broken skin). People with these characteristics are more likely to be in hospital than elsewhere. People who die in hospital are also more likely to have been tested for MRSA.

Table 1: number of deaths mentioning MRSA[1] by place of death, England and Wales, 1993 to 2005[2]

	Own home	NHS general hospital	Non-NHS general hospital	Hospice	NHS nursing home	Non-NHS nursing home	Private residential home	Local authority residential home	Other places	Total
1993	0	45	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	51
1994	5	75	0	1	0	7	4	0	0	92
1995	2	172	1	2	0	12	1	0	9	199
1996	6	260	4	0	2	20	3	0	6	301
1997	4	332	0	3	4	24	10	1	11	389
1998	8	345	3	0	5	25	8	4	14	412
1999	4	422	4	1	4	25	7	2	18	487
2000	10	583	2	3	8	30	10	3	20	669
2001	11	649	1	3	9	32	11	1	17	734
2002	7	720	1	4	7	35	9	2	15	800
2003	12	855	2	2	15	36	15	4	14	955
2004	24	1,023	8	6	6	58	18	5	20	1,168
2005	22	1,412	5	9	13	87	37	9	35	1,629
Total	115	6,893	31	34	74	392	134	31	182	7,886

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004). Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 21, 15-22.
[2] Deaths occurring in each calendar year.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 628W, on parliamentary questions, what the last occasion was on which such advice was provided to another Department. [136320]

John Healey: I have nothing to add to my earlier answers to the hon. Gentleman.

Planning Gain Supplement

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to take a decision on whether to proceed with the planning gain supplement before the summer adjournment. [136248]

John Healey: Budget 2007 made further announcements on the revenue allocation of the Planning-gain Supplement (PGS) including at the local and regional levels. The Government are currently considering the responses to the recent consultations on valuations, the payment process and changes to planning obligations in England which closed on 28 February 2007. If after further consideration PGS continues to be deemed workable and effective, it would be introduced no earlier than 2009.

Smuggling: Meat

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meat detector sniffer dogs were employed at UK ports and airports in each year since 1997. [135248]

John Healey: Meat detection dogs were introduced by Defra in 2002, and were transferred to HMRC in 2003. The number of Products of Animal Origin Detector dogs used at ports and airports in Great Britain since 2002 is in the following table:

	Number
2002	2
2003	2
2004	6
2005	10
2006	11
2007	11

These dogs are employed on a mobile basis across Great Britain.

We cannot disclose further information about the deployment of the dogs as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Taxation: Emergency Services

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what his Department's policy is on the treatment for tax purposes of the use of emergency vehicles *(a)* between home and workplace and *(b)* for other private purposes by the drivers of such vehicles. [135632]

John Healey: The Government introduced legislation in Finance Act 2004 to remove the tax charge that would otherwise arise where members of the fire, police, ambulance and paramedic services are required to take their vehicles home so they can respond quickly to emergencies when on call.

However, it is only fair that someone who can use a vehicle supplied by their employer for personal purposes should pay tax on the benefit of being able to do so, just as anyone else has to do.

Fire, police and health service vehicles are also exempt from vehicle excise duty.

Welfare Tax Credits: Child Benefit

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Copeland qualify for both child benefit and child tax credit. [135497]

Mr. Timms: Sample-based estimates of the number of families in each constituency benefiting from CTC

in provisional tax credits awards at April 2007 (or receiving the equivalent level of support via income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance) are published on the HMRC website and can be found at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The average number of families in each constituency benefiting from CTC in finalised 2005-06 awards will be published on 22 May 2007. No estimates are available of the number of families in each constituency who qualify for child tax credit (CTC) but have not claimed it.

World Customs Organisation

Mr. Osten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the meetings his officials attended at the World Customs Organisation in each of the last three years. [R] [136366]

John Healey: Over the last three years, HMRC officials have attended approximately 80 World Customs Organisation meetings, covering all aspects of customs and international trade, security and enforcement issues. It would be impractical to list the meetings individually.

Mr. Osten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what status the World Customs Organisation holds in relation to UK law. [R] [136367]

John Healey: The UK is a member of the World Customs Organisation, with full voting rights, and takes an active part in negotiations. The EU is not a full member—it has observer status—but may choose to adopt WCO agreements and conventions should it wish to do so (and as it has done, for example, with the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)). Any agreement or convention made by the WCO and not subject to Community competence only takes effect in UK law once it has been ratified and then enacted by Parliament: the UK may choose whether to ratify or not. Where agreements do fall under Community competence, the UK is bound to apply them where they are adopted and contained in Community legal instruments.

SCOTLAND

Poverty

9. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers on levels of poverty in Scotland. [135099]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have had regular discussions with Scottish Ministers on a range of issues.

Employment

10. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the rate of employment was in Scotland in each quarter of 2006-07. [135100]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: For 2006, the figures were as follows:

Quarter one 75.3 per cent. (to February 2006);
Quarter two 75.2 per cent. (to May 2006);
Quarter three 75.1 per cent. (to August 2006); and
Quarter four 75.3 per cent (to November 2006).

Energy Costs

12. **Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with energy companies on the costs of energy in Scotland. [135102]

David Cairns: Individual pricing decisions are very much a matter for each of the energy companies. The Government do not intervene in what is a competitive and free market.

Scottish Parliament Elections

13. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he plans to meet the First Minister following the Scottish Parliament elections; and what he plans to discuss. [135103]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I look forward to discussing with the new First Minister a range of issues relevant to the well-being and prosperity of the people of Scotland.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he plans to meet the First Minister of Scotland following the Scottish Parliament elections; and what he plans to discuss. [135090]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I look forward to discussing with the new First Minister a range of issues relevant to the well-being and prosperity of the people of Scotland.

Commonwealth Games

14. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what involvement his Department has had in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games bid, with particular reference to the formal bid expected to be presented to the Commonwealth Games Federation in London on 9 May. [135104]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have recently secured the full support of the United Kingdom Government for Glasgow and Scotland's bid to host the 2014 Commonwealth games. The bid will be formally submitted tomorrow.

Decision-Making Powers

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he plans to bring forward proposals to increase the decision-making powers of the Scottish Executive. [135096]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The current devolution settlement continues to serve us well and the Government have no plans for further legislative devolution of decision-making powers to the Scottish Executive.

University Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many school leavers from Scotland opted for university education in England in the last year for which figures are available. [135101]

David Cairns: There are 1,430 Scottish domiciled students who entered higher education institutions in England in 2005-06.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 9 May 2007

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1527W, on aviation exhaust emissions, whether he has made any assessment of the potential effects on health of contrails from aircraft. [136145]

Gillian Merron: Contrails are ice crystal clouds that form at high altitudes under certain atmospheric conditions. They are initiated by exhaust products and the disturbance caused by aircraft. The Department has sponsored research into these emissions including a major international scientific meeting last year which presented significant new research on the subject:

http://www.pa.op.dlr.de/tac/.

Bridges: Thames Gateway

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many representations of *(a)* support and *(b)* objection he has received on the pending decision on the Thames Gateway Bridge. [135999]

Gillian Merron: In the last year the Secretary of State has received *(a)* one letter supporting and *(b)* two letters opposing the Thames Gateway Bridge.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding has been allocated to the concessionary bus fare scheme for pensioners in 2007-08; what estimate he has made of the cost of administering the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [136028]

Gillian Merron: From April 2006, older and disabled people have been guaranteed free off-peak local bus travel within their local authority area. Statutory concessionary fares are one of the services supported through Formula Grant, which comprises Revenue Support Grant, Redistributed Business Rates and Principal Formula Police Grant.

Formula Grant is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend the money on any service. Because of this and the method of calculation, particularly floor damping (which guarantees local authorities at least a minimum percentage increase by scaling back increases for other authorities), it is not possible to say how much of the total Formula Grant funding is for any particular service. The Government provided an extra £350 million in 2006-07 and a further £367.5 million in 2007-08, via the Formula Grant system, to fund the extra costs to local authorities. The Government are confident that this should be sufficient to cover the total additional cost to local authorities of the statutory concession.

Local authorities have the discretion to offer (and fund from their own resources) enhancements to the statutory minimum, such as peak bus travel and/or concessions on other modes.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136104]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport (Central) and its agencies are very conscious of the need to reduce power, thereby contributing to a common target to reduce carbon emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11. All therefore have policies of shutting down computers at night, and staff are regularly instructed to do so by means such as induction training, circulars, general guidance, notices and night security checks. In addition, departmental procurement policy states that preference should be given to energy efficient IT equipment.

Technical procedures are not used at the moment, although DfT (Central) is examining the possibilities for this, commencing in mid-June, with an automatic shutdown of computers inadvertently left powered on at close of business each Friday.

Fares: Technology

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 414W, on fares: technology, what progress has been made towards using smartcards as part of the national concessionary fares scheme when it is launched in April 2008. [135954]

Gillian Merron: As part of extending concessionary travel to cover journeys on all off peak local bus services anywhere in England, the Department for Transport intends to specify a standard national concessionary bus travel pass.

We are actively exploring the option of specifying that the new passes must be ITSO compliant smartcards. Our decisions about the specifications of the pass will be dependent on the outcome of a forthcoming consultation and discussions with suppliers.

ITSO based smartcards are being used by both Scotland and Wales for their national concessionary travel schemes.

Honorary Medical Advisory Panel on Driving and Diabetes Mellitus

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Honorary Medical Advisory Panel on Driving and Diabetes Mellitus has *(a)* lay representatives and *(b)* a chosen insulin-treated diabetic who can attend meetings of the panel in a non-voting capacity. [136256]

Dr. Ladyman: Two lay members sit on the panel.

There are no health criteria for lay panel members but we do draw them from a range of sources including patient interest and support groups.

Road Traffic Control: Blackwall Tunnel

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the decision to end the tidal flow system at the Blackwall Tunnel. [135458]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State has received one representation regarding the decision to end the tidal flow system at the Blackwall Tunnel. This was a letter from a Member of Parliament.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to tackle the road safety hazard posed by the theft of drain covers from highways. [135752]

Gillian Merron: The Department endorses "Well maintained Highways" the code of practice on highway management published by the UK Roads Liaison Group. The code provides guidance on safety inspections and those defects to be inspected which include ironwork broken or missing.

The Highways Agency is responsible for the maintenance of the strategic road network. Their routine and winter service code specifies that a missing drain cover requires an immediate and temporary repair and a permanent repair within 28 days. Safety inspections are carried out every 24 hours on most motorways and every seven days on heavily trafficked all purpose trunk roads and on a 28 day cycle on all other trunk roads.

Transport: Radioactive Materials

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations exist to cover the safe transport of radioactively contaminated metals from United Kingdom nuclear plants to other member states of the European Union for decontamination treatment. [136354]

Dr. Ladyman: In the European Union the regulations to cover the safe transport of radioactive material are contained in the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) 2005 Edition and the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID) 2005 Edition. These regulations are required to be transposed into domestic regulations by each member state.

In Great Britain the current regulations are the Radioactive Material (Road Transport) Regulations 2002, SI 2002 No. 1093 and the Radioactive Material (Road Transport) (Amendment) Regulations 2003, SI 2003 No. 1867 and, for rail transport, the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2004, SI 2004 No. 568.

The Transfrontier Shipment of Radioactive Waste Regulations 1993 SI 1993 No. 3031 may also apply in order to prevent diversion of material.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: Parking

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the Answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 873W, on Parliament: parking, if he will estimate the annual revenue which would be raised by the introduction of a £10 charge for the use of car parking facilities on the estate. [136264]

Nick Harvey: As I said in my earlier reply there are no plans to introduce charges for use of car parking spaces on the parliamentary estate.

PRIME MINISTER

Early Intervention Measures

10. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Prime Minister what research he has evaluated on early intervention measures to tackle the causes of inequality, deprivation and under-attainment. [136194]

The Prime Minister: Ensuring that all children are able to read is essential to tackling inequality and under-attainment. Since 1997, 95,000 more 11-years-olds are able to read as a result of the daily literacy hour. We are also putting in place the recommendations of the review by Jim Rose for systematic phonics teaching for all children.

In addition, the Government are also supporting measures to improve children's behaviour and attitudes from an early age. The evaluation of the primary Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme found that it had a positive impact on children's results, behaviour and attitudes to school. Approximately 60 per cent. of primary schools are already implementing SEAL and a programme for secondary schools will start from September 2007.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135715]

The Prime Minister: My office is responsible for the No. 10 website (http: //www. number-10.gov.uk).

Information on the number of visits to the site can be found on the No 10. website (http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page1232.asp). A copy of this web page has been placed in the Library of the House.

On costs, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness (Mr. Stuart) on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1807-8W. Figures for the financial year 2006-07 are not yet available.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Credit: EC Action

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the EU Consumer Credit Directive on UK consumer spending in the *(a)* year following its implementation and *(b)* two years following its implementation. [135972]

Mr. McCartney: The DTI published an up-dated impact assessment in 2006 on the revised proposal for a Consumer Credit Directive. Our assessment then was that it could impose potential costs on lenders and lead to a possible reduction in access to credit among consumers, both of which could have a negative impact on consumer spending. Since then the proposal has been through a number of re-drafts and we think this risk has been very much reduced. It is not practicable to make any further assessment of the impact of the proposal post-implementation at a time when the text is subject to frequent change. We will be up-dating our impact assessment in the light of the final text if and when the directive is agreed. I will write to the hon. Member as the impact assessment is updated—and place copies in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the EU Consumer Credit Directive on UK consumer spending, with particular reference to *(a)* the overall cost of credit, *(b)* the ability to obtain credit and *(c)* access for people on low incomes to legal credit. [135973]

Mr. McCartney: The DTI published an up-dated impact assessment in 2006 on the revised proposal for a Consumer Credit Directive. Our assessment then was that it did put at risk the diversity of credit products and could drive up costs and prices and lead to a reduction in the availability of credit particularly to the sub-prime market. Since then the proposal has been through a number of re-drafts and we think this risk has been very much reduced. Negotiations are ongoing and we will be up-dating our impact assessment in the light of the final text if and when the directive is agreed. I will write to the hon. Member as the impact assessment is updated and place copies in the Libraries of the House.

Overseas Trade: Canada

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what initiatives his Department is taking to increase trade with Canada; and if he will make a statement. [136227]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: Through UK Trade and Investment, the Department supports initiatives and provides services across a range of sectors for UK companies seeking business in Canada, with a clear focus on activity that delivers maximum added value for business and the UK economy.

Pay Television: Competition

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he has taken to promote competition in the pay television market. [134406]

Mr. McCartney: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [135001]

Mr. Hain: My Department purchased 811,107 kilowatt hours of energy from renewable sources in 2005-06. This represents 25 per cent. of the total energy used and is well ahead of the 10 per cent. target set for March 2008. This is the most recent year for which figures are available.

Equal Opportunities

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in implementing the Workplace 2010 scheme in Northern Ireland; which bidders have been short-listed during the procurement stage; and whether Ministers-designate were consulted during the short-listing process. [135937]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Health Professions: Training

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will defer the Northern Ireland recruitment process relating to the modernising medical careers programme for 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [136358]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Midwives

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Government are taking to ensure there is an adequate number of midwives in Northern Ireland. [136551]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Northern Ireland Assembly: Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which flags will be flown from the Northern Ireland Assembly building at Stormont; and on what dates. [135037]

Mr. Hain: Parliament Buildings is not defined as a Government building as classified in the Flags Order (NI) 2000, and so is not subject to the Flags Regulations. After devolution it will be for the Northern Ireland Administration to decide on flag flying procedures at Parliament Buildings.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Casualties

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured on duty in each year since 1997. [135039]

Paul Goggins: The following tables provide a breakdown of the number of RUC or PSNI officers who have been *(a)* killed on duty and *(b)* injured on duty.

(a) Number of police officers killed on duty[1]—1997 to 2006

	Number
1997	4
1998	1
1999	0
2000	2
2001	0
2002	0
2003	1
2004	0
2005	1
2006	0

[1] Includes (a) death by terrorist on duty (b) death by non-terrorist on duty (c) death by traffic accident on duty (d) death by accident on duty.

(b) Occurrences of injury on duty[1]—1999[2] to 2006

	Number
1999	1,598
2000	1,594
2001	2,114
2002	1,490
2003	1,165
2004	928
2005	848
2006	564

[1] Figures include IOD incurred by police officers while travelling to and from work.
[2] Earliest year for which this data is available.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget of the Police Service of Northern Ireland was in each year since 2002. [135041]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland budget for the period 2002-03 to 2006-07, excluding budgets for the police pension schemes which are treated separately to other GB forces, is detailed in the following table.

Police Service for Northern Ireland analysis of grant 2002-03 to 2006-07

£ million

	Main grant revenue	Main grant capital	Patten non severance revenue	Patten non severance capital	Patten severance
2002-03[1]	635.1	20.5	9.8	14.9	42.2
2003-04[1]	649.2	19.7	14.6	12.9	10.2
2004-05	780.8	30.3	20.0	7.9	26.6
2005-06	721.8	32.2	21.1	6.4	28.1
2006-07	764.2	36.1	19.6	2.6	27.9

[1] Represents cash budgeting figure (non cash not included). All other figures are on a resource basis.

Notes:
1. 2004-05 main grant includes a provision for FTR severance.
3. 2006-07 main grant includes a provision for injury on duty liabilities.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are employed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [135040]

Paul Goggins: On 27 April 2007 the number of officers and civilian staff of the PSNI, not including secondments, was 12,670.

Police: Crimes of Violence

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attacks on police officers there were in each district command unit of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [135353]

Paul Goggins: Information prior to 2005-06 is not available in the requested format. However the following table outlines the total number of attacks on police officers in each of the last two years.

District command unit	2005-06	2006-07
Antrim	39	7
Ards	5	3
Armagh	7	7
Banbridge	1	4
East Belfast	178	31
North Belfast	454	124
South Belfast	123	39
West Belfast	696	439
Ballymena	29	11
Ballymoney	4	2

District command unit	2005-06	2006-07
Carrickfergus	18	9
Coleraine	6	7
Cookstown	6	8
Craigavon	131	106
Castlereagh	17	22
Dungannon and S. Tyrone	14	3
Down	12	15
Fermanagh	8	2
Foyle	251	173
Larne	3	1
Limavady	7	9
Lisburn	130	138
Magherafelt	2	6
Moyle	5	2
Newtownabbey	79	50
North Down	12	11
Newry and Mourne	62	92
Omagh	12	8
Strabane	39	26
Total	2,350	1,355

JUSTICE

Absent Voting: Merchant Seamen

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether she has received representations concerning difficulties encountered by merchant seamen in responding to requests for information from electoral registration officers in relation to proxy vote entitlement. [136296]

Bridget Prentice: I have not received any representations on this matter.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when she expects her Department's consultation process on the right of convicted prisoners to vote to be completed. [135907]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are currently analysing the responses to the first stage consultation document. Once this analysis is complete, a second consultation document will be produced, to consider how any changes might work in practice.

Our current plans are as set out in the action plan submitted to the Committee of Ministers for responding to the Hirst judgment. That indicates that we hope to conclude the consultation process on this subject by January 2008.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Security Objectives

6. **Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the appropriateness of his Department contributing to security objectives overseas. [136210]

Mr. Thomas: Security and development are linked. Poverty, under-development, weak and ineffective government all help to provide fertile conditions for conflict, criminality and, in some circumstances, terrorism, which is why DFID country programmes all promote the security of the poor and in doing so, help to address the root causes of insecurity locally, nationally and internationally.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

7. **Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the outcomes of his recent visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [136211]

Hilary Benn: During my visit I met President Kabila, Prime Minister Gizenga and others. I expressed deep concern about the recent fighting in Kinshasa and Bas Congo: Congolese politicians need to embrace democracy, not confrontation and violence. I pressed for renewed commitment to democracy, progress on security sector reform and enforcement of the moratorium on new logging concessions.

At Panzi hospital in Eastern DRC, I met rape victims aged just 4 and 7. I was moved by the hospital staff's determination to make a difference. DFID's task is to support such efforts to help poor people and sustain peace in DRC.

Water Supplies

8. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on his Department's efforts to promote clean water and sanitation in the developing world. [136212]

13. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote clean water and sanitation in the developing world; and if he will make a statement. [136217]

Hilary Benn: We will double our expenditure on water and sanitation in Africa—where the Millennium Development Goal targets are most off-track—to £95 million a year by 2007-08, and then double it again to £200 million a year by 2010-11.

Last November, I published a global call to action on water and sanitation. We need both developing country Governments and donors to do more, we need to invest more and to ensure this money is spent effectively, and we need to put the best structures in place to make all of this happen.

Nigeria

9. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Nigeria. [136213]

Hilary Benn: Nigeria ranks below the average for sub-Saharan Africa in the UN's Human Development Index. In Northern Nigeria, high maternal mortality,

low levels of immunisation, and gender inequality mean human development indicators are among the world's worst, outside conflict zones. While Nigeria has not seen a widespread humanitarian crisis in recent years, there are regional instances of severe human suffering. A nutritional crisis in mid-2005 in several Northern states led Medicins Sans Frontieres to treat over 15,000 severely malnourished children. Meanwhile, oil spills in the Niger Delta have affected the environment and local livelihoods in that region.

Darfur

10. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [136214]

Hilary Benn: Four million people in Darfur are in need of assistance including two million Internally Displaced Persons, 131,000 of whom have been displaced since the beginning of the year.

Recent assessment showed malnutrition just below emergency line and fairly stable mortality figures. This success however is dependent on continued humanitarian assistance which continues to be under threat both from violence and from bureaucratic impediments imposed by the Government of Sudan. Aid delivery remains suspended or severely curtailed in many areas of Darfur leaving large numbers of people with no access to critical humanitarian assistance.

11. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [136215]

Hilary Benn: Four million people in Darfur are in need of assistance including two million who have been displaced by violence. Displacements continue at an alarming rate of 30,000 a month.

Recent assessments report malnutrition just below emergency threshold and fairly stable mortality figures. However this success is dependent on the provision of ongoing humanitarian assistance which continues to be under threat both from insecurity and from bureaucratic impediments imposed by the Government of Sudan. Aid deliveries remain suspended or severely curtailed in many areas of Darfur leaving many without access to critical humanitarian assistance.

Vulture Funds

12. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* the World Bank and *(b)* other multilateral institutions on the activities of vulture funds in developing countries. [136216]

Mr. Thomas: The actions of vulture funds are deplorable. They cannot be allowed to continue to profit from poor countries. The UK is working with the World Bank to ensure that countries can buy back their commercial debts at a considerable discount through the Debt Reduction Facility. We are encouraging the World Bank and IMF to strengthen their support for debt management capacity building in developing countries. The UK is also supporting the African Development Bank's proposal to set up a legal assistance facility to help countries facing lawsuits access legal advice. In addition, we will seek to develop a voluntary code of conduct for commercial creditors.

Latin America

14. **Mr. Blizzard:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to tackle inequality in Latin America. [136218]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is primarily working with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and World Bank. We are seeking to help the poor to get better access to markets, and to make their voice heard in Government services. There are signs of improvement: between 2001 and 2005, incomes of the poorest 10 per cent. of people in Brazil rose eight times faster than incomes of the top 10 per cent. This is in part because of the Bolsa Familia programme of cash transfers that the banks and DFID have been supporting.

Somalia

15. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Somalia. [136219]

Hilary Benn: The UN has declared Somalia one of the most serious humanitarian crises in the world. Killings, woundings, displacement, destruction of homes, and theft of property, especially due to the conflict in Mogadishu, has added to mounting levels of starvation and epidemic disease especially in southern and central Somalia. More people were displaced in Somalia in the past month than in any other conflict in the world. Continuing insecurity, and deliberate harassment and obstruction by all parties is seriously impeding relief efforts. Against a UN appeal of $262 million DFID has committed over £3.6 million to humanitarian activities in 2007, and is considering further support.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will revise paragraphs 29 to 31 of Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 to allow local planning authorities to take account of concerns about the potential health effects of mobile telecommunications stations irrespective of whether the proposed station meets the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection guidelines for public exposure. [134121]

Meg Munn: We are currently considering the need to revise Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 but have yet to make a decision on whether we will do so. If we believe there is a case for revision to the guidance, we will consult the Electronic Communications Working Group which comprises Government, industry, academic and campaign representatives.

Bridges: Thames Gateway

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations of *(a)* support and *(b)* objection she has received on the pending decision on the Thames Gateway Bridge. [135991]

Meg Munn: Overall, the Department has received 4,808 written representations objecting to the scheme, broken down as follows:

2,949 representations, of which 2,836 were contained in petitions, before the opening of the Public Inquiry into the proposed Bridge;

1,819 representations were made during the Inquiry; and

44 representations following the close of the Inquiry.

Overall, the Department has received 77 written representations supporting the scheme, broken down as follows:

59 expressions of support/representations for the proposal before the opening of the Public Inquiry into the proposed Bridge;

11 representations were made during the Inquiry; and

7 written representations following the close of the Inquiry.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire authorities *(a)* have formally committed to moving to regional fire control centres, *(b)* are awaiting a final business case before formally deciding, *(c)* have formally committed not to move to regional fire control centres and *(d)* have agreed to join local authority controlled companies, but with caveats that they may withdraw if the full business case does not provide evidence of value for money. [133678]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 24 April 2007]*: As yet no fire and rescue authority has been asked to commit to formally moving to a regional fire control centre although all have been asked to make preparations for doing so in accordance with the fire and rescue national framework. The business case shows that FiReControl provides good value for money and we expect every fire and rescue authority should see savings on current spend.

Planning Permission

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many decisions of the Planning Inspectorate she has overturned since *(a)* 5 December 2005 and *(b)* 1 November 2006; and whether any of these decisions relate to reserve sites as identified in the local development plan. [135773]

Meg Munn: I am presuming that the right hon. Gentleman is referring to decisions where the Secretary of State has disagreed with the 'recommendation' of a Planning Inspector. The Secretary of State does not overturn decisions taken by the Planning Inspectorate.

Since 5 December 2005:

The Secretary of State has made 23 planning decisions against the recommendations of the Inspector.

Since 1 November 2006:

The Secretary of State has made seven planning decisions against the recommendations of the Inspector.

The issue of reserve sites for housing is not one that arises nationally. It relates to only a few areas, including the county in which the right hon. Gentleman's constituency lies. It was not an issue in any of these cases.

Some recent cases, where the Secretary of State has been minded to make a decision against Inspectors recommendations, will not be included in these statistics as a final decision has not yet been issued.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her policy on determining planning applications has altered with the publication of Planning Policy Statement 3. [135775]

Meg Munn: Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3) was published in November 2006 and took full effect on 1 April 2007. It is therefore the relevant national policy statement which the Secretary of State takes into account in determining planning cases which involve prospective housing development.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many decisions of the Planning Inspectorate she overturned in each year for which records are available; and what proportion this represents of all inspectorate decisions in each year, broken down by regional planning authority. [135777]

Meg Munn: I am presuming that the right hon. Gentleman is referring to decisions where the Secretary of State has disagreed with the 'recommendation' of a Planning Inspector.

The Secretary of State does not overturn decisions taken by the Planning Inspectorate.

If so, records are available since 2002, and can be seen in the following table:

	Call-ins (Number)	*Call-ins (Percentage)*	*Recovered appeals (Number)*	*Recovered appeals (Percentage)*	*Total (Number)*	*Total (Percentage)*
2006-07						
Total decisions	80	—	153	—	233	—
Decisions against Inspector's recommendation	6	7.5	10	6.5	16	6.9

	Call-ins (Number)	Call-ins (Percentage)	Recovered appeals (Number)	Recovered appeals (Percentage)	Total (Number)	Total (Percentage)
2005-06						
Total decisions	78	—	306	—	384	—
Decisions against Inspector's recommendation	17	21.8	18	5.9	35	9.1
2004-05						
Total decisions	86	—	261	—	347	—
Decisions against Inspector's recommendation	12	14.0	17	6.5	29	8.3
2003-04						
Total decisions	88	—	236	—	324	—
Decisions against Inspector's recommendation	11	12.5	20	8.5	31	9.6
2002-03						
Total decisions	59	—	124	—	183	—
Decisions against Inspector's recommendation	12	20.3	5	4.0	17	9.3

The figures, for cases decided by the Secretary of State, should be seen in the context of the total number of planning decisions made by Inspectors of the Planning Inspectorate:

	Number
2002-03	14,950
2003-04	18,194
2004-05	17,403
2005-06	21,493
2006-07	20,860

For the most recent year, the 16 decisions made by the Secretary of State against the recommendation of the Inspector represents 0.08 per cent. of the total number of decisions made by Inspectors or the Secretary of State.

There are no regional planning authorities, as suggested in the question. It may be that the right hon. Gentleman is referring to the Government Office regions. Should this be the case, I would be more than happy to provide him with this information on request.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account she takes of local residents' views when determining planning applications. [135778]

Meg Munn: The Secretary of State fully takes into account the views of local people when determining planning applications. The principle of fully considering the views of local people, and the importance the Secretary of State ascribes to this process, is outlined in paragraphs 40-44 of Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development.

Furthermore, the Secretary of State will always consider the Inspector's Report, inquiry evidence and post-inquiry representations—all of which incorporate the views of local people.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made on reconstruction works in Afghanistan being undertaken by those responsible to him. [132266]

Mr. Ingram: The Secretary of State announced the deployment of additional Royal Engineers on 10 July 2006 to accelerate the reconstruction effort in southern Afghanistan. It is worth noting, though, that the UK task force as a whole is deployed to provide security so that reconstruction and development may take place.

The following tables list quick impact projects being undertaken in Helmand Province, and the progress that has been made to date. I have stated the agency responsible for the implementation of each project, and identified whether the responsible agency reports to the MOD. It is important to note, however, that in all instances the military work closely with other Government Departments and non-governmental organisations to agree key priorities with the Afghan authorities. In many instances, project delivery will require the involvement of a number of agencies. This is in line with our comprehensive approach.

In addition to the projects in the following table, there are a number of long-term development initiatives being undertaken throughout Afghanistan, to which the Department for International Development (DFID) contributes. DFID funds around $60 million over three years (2006-09) in support of their Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme.

Security

Responsible agency	*Agency responsible to MOD*	*Location*	*Title*	*Total cost ($)*	*Status*
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Permanent Vehicle Check Point (PVCP)	21,387	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Gereshk	Afghan National Police (ANP) Infrastructure in Gereshk	240,000	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Afghan National Army (ANA) Platoon House	40,387	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	ANP Outposts	143,964	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	4 x PVCPs	155,000	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	4 x Enhanced PVCPs	110,000	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Helmand	Construction resources for 12 modular Military Construction Force built ANP temporary police stations/PVCPs	600,000	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	New Joint Provincial Coordination Centre	161,147	Complete
Governor's Office	No	Lashkar Gah	2 x PVCPs	16,800	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Ablutions at US Protection and Investigations (USPI) compound for Afghan National Auxiliary Police (ANAP) training	5,265	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Tombstone	Camp Shorabak (ANA) Mosque	100,000	Planned
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Provision of security infrastructure for Governor's office and Bost Hotel	84,227	In progress
Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT)	Yes	Kajaki	Water/Fuel storage for the ANA	1,200	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Gereshk	Upgrade to ANA compound in Gereshk	15,000	Complete
Operations Company	Yes	Laskhar Gah	Upgrade to Muktar Gate	6,475	In progress
42 Commando	Yes	Nowzad	Rubble Clearance	0	In progress
Royal Military Police (RMP)	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Bonus Scheme for ANP top-performers at PVCPs	3,000	In progress
Information Exploitation Group	Yes	Garmsir	Garmsir PVCP repairs	700	In progress
Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT)	No	Lashkar Gah	Afghan Meeting facility	651	Complete
Total				1,705,203	

Social and economic development

Responsible agency	*Agency responsible to MOD*	*Location*	*Title*	*Total cost ($)*	*Status*
Helping Afghan Farmers Organisation (HAFO)	No	Gereshk	Sayed Tajdar Shrine: wall and gate construction	21,224	Complete
HAFO	No	Gereshk	Sayed Tajdar Shrine: road and footpath construction	33,076	Complete
HAFO	No	Lashkar Gah	Improvement of Friday market and Gabion wall	140,623	Complete
HAFO	No	Cha-i-Anjeer	Improvement of Friday market	24,950	Complete
HAFO	No	Lashkar Gah	Gabion Extension	34,108	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Safean Playground	50,000	In progress
PRT	No	Lashkar Gah	Support to Office of Governor to respond to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) needs	60,000	Complete
Information Operations (IO)	Yes	Lashkar Gah	improvements to Media Centre	8,336	Complete
Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC)	Yes	Lashkar Gah/ Gereshk	Installation of solar-powered lighting	280,960	In progress
IO	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Support to Radio Stations	150,000	In progress
HAFO	No	Lashkar Gah	Weir on Helmand River	161,848	Complete

Social and economic development

Responsible agency	*Agency responsible to MOD*	*Location*	*Title*	*Total cost ($)*	*Status*
HAFO	No	Lashkar Gah	Extension of Gabion walls on Helmand River	168,045	Complete
HAFO	No	Lashkar Gah	Silt Removal from Helmand River	259,479	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Bost Hospital Generator and Mortuary	130,400	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Security wall for Women's Centre	30,000	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Building work for Kartelegan and Toortank day care centres	86,052	Complete
CIMIC	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Women's Centre sewing ISAF badges to UK mil uniforms	750	Complete
Governor's Office	No	Nahrisiraj	Work to clear and strengthen stretch of Nahrisiraj canal	12,000	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Construction of 8 new classrooms at Zacor School	80,008	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Connection of a new school to electricity grid	1,809	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Construction of a 20 room midwifery hostel	221,762	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Construction of a perimeter wall for Cha I Anjeer school	25,000	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Essential repairs to Bolan Bridge	231,728	In progress
CIMIC	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Welfare Association for Development of Afghanistan (WADAN) Playground	1,090	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Repairs to 3 schools	185,062	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Improvements to Lashkar Gah library	13,925	Complete
CIMIC	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Sports equipment for 8 schools	0	Planned
CIMIC	Yes	Lashkar Gah	School sports equipment	30,000	Planned
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Kartelegan Playground	52,237	Complete
CIMIC	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Welfare Centre Kitchen	15,819	In progress
HAFO	No	Lashkar Gah	Women's Park	840,813	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	New School in Qala-e-Khana	0	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Refurbishment of Nawa School	72,713	In progress
Ministry of Public Health	No	Lashkar Gah	Rapid Assessment of Mukhtar IDP camp	973	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Musa Qaleh	Repairs to 3 mosques	350,000	Planned
Royal Engineers	Yes	Gereshk	Playground and Football pitch	39,098	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Gereshk	Seminar Awal School repairs	0	Planned
Royal Engineers	Yes	Gereshk	Technical School repairs	0	Planned
Royal Engineers	Yes	Gereshk	Abolfathi Botsi Boys School Repairs	0	Planned
CIMIC	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Ministry of Agriculture Tree	6,750	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Garmsir	Reconstruction using local labour—road, wells, ditches	4,000	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Garmsir	Culvert bridge	500	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Garmsir	Bore Hole and Hand Pump	1,750	In Progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Nahr-e-Saraj	Lashkar Gah-Gereshk canal road culvert and gravel track repairs	28,272	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	3 km asphalt road and solid drainage Kartelegan-601	429,950	In progress
CIMIC	Yes	Garmsir	CHC Generator Repair	505	In progress
CIMIC	Yes	Lashkar Gah/ Gereshk	Midwifery Kits	5,416	In progress
Stabilisation Advisor (STABAD)	No	Lashkar Gah	Carpet weaving pilot project	82,733	In Progress
CIMIC	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Furniture for Zacor High School	20,000	Complete
PRT	No	Helmand	Support to Director of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD) for Musa Qaleh IDPs	800	Complete
CIMIC	Yes	Gereshk	Refuse Collection Points and new trucks	34,000	In progress

Social and economic development

Responsible agency	*Agency responsible to MOD*	*Location*	*Title*	*Total cost ($)*	*Status*
CIMIC	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Upgrade to Bost Hospital Grounds	150,860	In progress
CIMIC	Yes	Gereshk	Furniture for Gereshk Women's Group	1,920	Complete
HAFO	No	Lashkar Gah	Lashkar Gah Bus Station	854,327	In progress
UK Task Force (UKTF)	Yes	Garmsir	Wells and Water Tower	10,800	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Covered waiting area at Bost Hospital	7,000	Complete
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Reconstruct Dept of Land Registry	98,142	In progress
CIMIC	Yes	Helmand	Procure 3 GPS units	500	In progress
PRT	No	Helmand	Provide Plant Machinery to DRRD	2,268,000	In progress
Police Mentors	No	Lashkar Gah	Additional Support to the Traffic Division	40,000	In progress
Total				7,860,113	

Governance

Responsible agency	*Agency responsible to MOD*	*Location*	*Title*	*Total cost ($)*	*Status*
BBC World Service (BBCWS)	No	Lashkar Gah/Gereshk	Radio Transmitter	94,231	Complete
RMP	Yes	Helmand	ID card making facility (ANP)	30,295	Complete
PRT	No	Lashkar Gah	Generators for the Governor's Office and compound	220,186	Complete
Justice Advisor	No	Lashkar Gah	Wall for the Office of the Prosecutor	10,000	Planned
Governance Advisor	No	Lashkar Gah	Refurbish of Offices for Provincial Government Departments	32,000	In progress
IO	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Rehabilitate Printing Press	224,098	In progress
Governor's Office	No	Musa Qaleh	Set up costs for Musa Qaleh District Administration	10,000	Complete
RMP	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Equipment for 8 PVCPs	32,584	In progress
PRT	No	Lashkar Gah	Additional support to the Dept of Hajj	24,167	In progress
Police Mentors	No	Lashkar Gah	Support to ANP Traffic Division	32,631	In progress
Total				710,192	

Counter-narcotics (CN)

Responsible agency	*Agency responsible to MOD*	*Location*	*Title*	*Total cost ($)*	*Status*
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Regrading of Bost Airfield	555,000	In progress
MNCC	No	Lashkar Gah	Windmill Wells	10,640	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Upgrade to Lashkar Gah prison	45,385	Complete
British Embassy Drugs Team (BEDT)	No	Lashkar Gah	Comms equipment for the Counter-Narcotics Police Authority (CNPA)	8,900	Complete
BEDT	No	Helmand	PA Systems for 12 District Centres	3,000	Complete
BEDT	No	Helmand	CN Tractor Repairs	12,000	Complete
BEDT	No	Helmand	CN Tractor Ploughs	30,000	Complete
BEDT	No	Lashkar Gah	Tractors and equipment for the Governor	884,718	In progress
Royal Engineers	Yes	Lashkar Gah	Repair to bomb-damage at the Directorate of Counter-Narcotics	21,079	Complete
BEDT	No	Lashkar Gah	Upgrade to Counter Narcotics Provincial Administration	88,925	In progress
BEDT	No	Lashkar Gah	Incinerator for Bost hospital	30,000	In progress
BEDT	No	Lashkar Gah	Uniforms for the Prison Staff	5,000	Complete
BEDT	No	Lashkar Gah	Computer for Chief of Police	1,761	Complete
BEDT	No	Lashkar Gah	Support to the Counter Narcotics Provincial Administration	340,000	In progress
Total				2,031,408	

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which British military units are deployed to Afghanistan, broken down by Afghan province; [135362]

(2) when he plans to update the list of units deployed to Afghanistan on his Department's website. [135420]

Des Browne *[holding answer 2 May 2007]*: Following the recent roulement of forces in Afghanistan, an up to date list of military units deployed to Afghanistan is now available on the MOD website.

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishForces.htm

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* British and *(b)* Afghan (i) armed forces members and (ii) civilians were killed in (A) each of the years since the present conflict began and (B) in each month of the most recent year. [135785]

Des Browne *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: The numbers of UK military and civilian personnel killed or injured in Afghanistan are published on the Ministry of Defence website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets

and are in the following tables. Figures cover military personnel and UK civilians employed, or contracted, by the MOD.

Number of UK military and civilian fatalities from 7 October 2001 to 31 December 2006

	Number
2001	0
2002	3
2003	0
2004	1
2005	1
2006	39

Number of UK military and civilian fatalities in 2007 by completed month

	Number
January	2
February	2
March	4
April	1

Figures for Afghan armed forces fatalities are not held by the UK and are a matter for the Afghan National Government. There are no reliable means of ascertaining the numbers of Afghan civilians killed during the period since the conflict began. The UK makes every effort to minimise the impact of military action on the Afghan population.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is responsible for the *(a)* policy, *(b)* administration and *(c)* operational aspects of the safe return of the bodies of service personnel killed on operations to the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [136156]

Mr. Ingram: Ownership of repatriation policy rests with the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel). The administration and operation of the process rests with the personnel staffs located at the permanent joint headquarters and the nominated lead authority, usually the parent service of the deceased.

Armed Forces: Children

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what Government support is available for the children of single parents who are serving in combat with HM armed forces; [130651]

(2) what support is provided for the care of children whose parents or guardians are both deployed on overseas operations with HM armed forces. [130714]

Derek Twigg: Service personnel who are single parents remain liable for deployment on operations in accordance with identified operational requirements. The need to make plans in advance for appropriate care arrangements for dependent children is made very clear to all service personnel but is explicitly brought to the attention of single parents. All children of any service personnel deployed on operations will continue to receive the full range of support available, such as unit staff, specialist service welfare organisations, community support staff, MOD children's education support staff, HIVE information services, and the families federations.

This support will be available direct to children or, more typically, through those who have taken on the care of those children in the absence of the parent, in accordance with the arrangements made by the service parent.

The responsibilities, arrangements, support and advice available in the case of both serving parents being deployed on operations is no different to the case of a serving single parent deploying on operations. The armed forces are very successful in minimising the occurrence of such simultaneous deployments.

Armed Forces: Employment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the rules are covering the release of servicemen serving in the armed forces to work for the private security sector during the last weeks of service; and if he will make a statement. [132844]

Mr. Ingram: Service personnel leaving the Regular Forces may accept paid permanent employment while on Terminal Leave subject to the requirements laid down in Queen's Regulations which are available from the Library of the House.

Contrary to my answer of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1247W, Service personnel leaving the Regular Forces may accept paid employment while on Terminal Leave subject to the requirements laid down in Queen's Regulations which are available from the Library of the House. Queen's Regulations for the Army do however specifically preclude personnel taking up civil employment in an operational area while on Terminal Leave.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many single service personnel in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force were living in communal accommodation in each year since 1997. [135416]

Derek Twigg: The number of service personnel living in multi-occupant rooms within single living accommodation is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Life Insurance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of the service personnel life insurance programme will be for 2007-08 and subsequent planned years; and under which budget this cost falls. [131093]

Mr. Ingram: The projected cost of the Service Life Insurance (SLI) project for 2007-08 is £90,000. This sum covers salaries (until the project team disbands on 30 June 2007), consultancy and 'bedding in' costs following SLI launch in May 2007.

SLI attracts no cost in subsequent years as it is planned to be at nil cost. All SLI costs fall to the centre top level budget.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army personnel were mispaid on the first pay run by the Army Joint Personnel Administration; and if he will make a statement. [135455]

Derek Twigg: The April payroll has been completed successfully on time and the vast majority of 110,104 Army regulars and 17,059 TA personnel have received their basic pay accurately. 8,238 personnel have been affected by minor discrepancies in relation to deduction charges and allowances, of which some 4,000 stem from a single error resulting in an overpayment of £1.43 per person. 90 per cent. of these will be corrected in the May pay run with the remainder being corrected in June.

Armed Forces: South Africa

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1033W, on the Armed Forces: South Africa, what steps he is taking to estimate the number of personnel serving in the British Army who have dual British and South African citizenship. [131706]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* British, Irish or Commonwealth citizens can apply to join the Army, but there is no requirement for personnel with dual nationality to declare this on their Record of Service (ROS). As such, the only way to accurately determine this information, would require asking each and every British and South African national, and would incur disproportionate cost.

However, a check of the ROS has shown that 150 personnel in the Army have declared dual British/South African nationality.

Army: Fairtrade

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the Fairtrade products purchased for the office of the *(a)* Chief of the General Staff and *(b)* Adjutant General in the last 12 months. [135911]

Derek Twigg: No separate records are kept covering the purchase of Fairtrade items. The information is not therefore available.

Departments: BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 458W, on BAE Systems, whether Mr. Julian Scopes was issued a security pass before December 2005. [132895]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* Mr. Scopes was photographed for a Main Building pass on 16 October 2004 and a contractor's pass (valid for a year) was first issued to him at that time. My response of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 458W, gave details of the most recent pass (which expired in December 2006). I apologise for any misunderstanding this may have caused.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Ministers in his Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135544]

Derek Twigg: None.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1462W, on departments: manpower, how many of the civilian personnel referred to in the answer are *(a)* Departmental personnel and *(b)* private contractors. [136152]

Derek Twigg: The civilian personnel numbers relate to staff filling civil service posts.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134048]

Derek Twigg: The percentage of paper used for photocopying and printed publications from recycled sources in the last three years is as follows:

In MOD Main Building, 100 per cent of the paper used for photocopying comes from recycled sources, a practice which started in March 2006. For the Department as a whole, the figures for the last three years are as follows; 2.1 per cent. for 2004-05; 1.8 per cent. for 2005-06; 1.9 per cent. for 2006-07. As a Department, it is planned that as of October 2007, 100 per cent. of paper used for photocopying will be from recycled sources.

In 2006-07, the percentage of paper used for printed publications coming from recycled sources was 3.1 per cent. This figure is based on two thirds of MOD printed publications, the remaining one third covers smaller independent contracts for which data are unobtainable.

Data for the previous two years are unavailable from the supplier. As of April 2007, our new suppliers are required to print on paper containing a minimum of 50 per cent. recycled fibres.

As these targets are being put in place this year, our current data will not reflect this step change in paper procurement.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many telephone helplines are sponsored by his Department with the prefix *(a)* 0870 and *(b)* 0845; and whether alternative geographic numbers are available in each case. [136257]

Derek Twigg: The use of 0800, 0845 or 0870 numbers in the Department and its Agencies is determined at local level in accordance with individual business requirements and ordered directly from the supplier. Records of these numbers are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

European Fighter Aircraft

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much was saved by the decision taken in 2001 not to equip Typhoon aircraft with Mauser 27 mm cannon; [135062]

(2) what the cost has been of retrofitting Typhoon aircraft with cannon. [135063]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answers 30 April 2007]*: All RAF Typhoon aircraft have been fitted with a cannon. As stated within the Major Project Report 2006, the decision to leave the Typhoon cannon non-operational was assessed to save £32 million in programme costs.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest assessment is of the merits of fitting a cannon to *(a)* Typhoon and *(b)* other future combat aircraft. [134727]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 1 May 2007]*: The activation of the cannon on Typhoon, and its fitting to future combat aircraft, would provide an additional means of delivering air-to-surface low collateral damage effect in support of ground forces. This would need to be weighed against the through life costs of such a capability, including the implications for airframe life.

Gap Year Commission

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Gap Year Commission was started; and how many people passed though it in each year since it started. [136041]

Derek Twigg: Gap Year Commissions were introduced in 2000, prior to this, personnel were granted a Short Service Limited Commission.

Intake by financial year, of untrained Regular Army Officers to Gap Year Commission is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Number*
2000-01	60
2001-02	70
2002-03	80
2003-04	70
2004-05	30
2005-06	40
2006-07[1]	50

[1] 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are in place for the medical welfare of reserve forces who have served in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan on their return; and in what ways such arrangements differ to those in place for regular servicemen and women. [136031]

Derek Twigg: Any mobilised serviceman or woman injured when on operational deployment is treated the same, and will receive exactly the same medical treatment and support, whether they are regular or reserve. If a medical officer in-theatre assesses that a member of the reserve forces requires treatment or rehabilitation back in the UK, they will be treated in exactly the same way as regular personnel. This may include treatment and rehabilitation at a military Regional Rehabilitation Unit or the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, Surrey, or—if the problem is related to their mental health—admission to the Priory Group or treatment at a military Department of Community Mental Health.

When reserve personnel are demobilised, they are given a medical assessment. During this process, if it is identified that they are in need of an operation they may be referred to NHS hospitals housing Ministry of Defence Hospital Units or the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham, where they will be treated within military time frames which can in some cases offer faster access to treatment. Reserve personnel will receive treatment for injuries sustained on operation until they are

deemed to have reached a steady state of fitness. They are then demobilised, and taken through a transition from military to NHS care, if they have continuing health care needs.

The patient may express a preference for treatment in a hospital nearer to their home, which may be a non-MDHU hospital, and some reservists opt for this route. In accordance with NHS protocols, if they are referred on to a non-MDHU hospital, then access to treatment is according to clinical priority.

Once demobilised it is a long established tradition that reserve forces' medical welfare becomes the responsibility of their local NHS primary care trust and the majority of Veterans' physical and mental health needs are met by these provisions. However, the MOD recognises that it has an expertise to offer in certain specific circumstances, and in November 2006 launched a new initiative—the Reserves Mental Health Programme. This is open to personnel who have been demobilised since January 2003 following overseas operational deployment as a reservist and who have concerns that their mental health has suffered primarily as a result of their operational service leading up to their demobilisation.

They will be invited to attend the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre at Chilwell, Nottinghamshire, where members of the Defence Medical Services will carry out an assessment of their mental health. If it is considered that they are eligible for out-patient treatment by the Defence Medical Services, this will be provided at one of the military Departments of Community Mental Health, at the most convenient site to meet the individual's circumstances whenever possible. More details of the programme are available at:

http://www.army.mod.uk/rtmc/rmhp.htm

Finally, the Government fund courses of care at Combat Stress facilities for both regulars and reservists whose condition is due to service and for whom this is an appropriate course of treatment.

Lynx Helicopters

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the acquisition costs are of the Lynx Mk 8 aircraft; and what the average total operating cost is per hour. [134199]

Mr. Ingram: The current Lynx Mk8 aircraft were initially procured as Mk 2 and Mk3 aircraft between 1979 and 1988 and have subsequently been extensively modified, enhanced and converted to the Mk8 standard. The average Net Book Value on 16 January 2007 for these aircraft was £11.5 million.

The total operating cost per flying hour for Lynx Mk 8 is approximately £16,000. This cost includes both fixed and marginal costs incurred in using the aircraft, comprising servicing costs, fuel costs, crew capitation and training costs, support costs and charges for capital and depreciation.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Minister for Veterans expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 22 December 2007, (ref: D/US of S/DT MC00143/2007). [134605]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 27 April 2007]*: Following my interim reply of 22 February, I sent a final response to the hon. Member on 30 April.

Permanent Joint Headquarters

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the permanent joint headquarters is integrated with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development. [128482]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 19 March 2007]*: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) engages with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DfID) on operational issues through a number of tri-departmental strategic and working groups from ministerial level downwards. Desk level officials maintain close and regular contacts across departments. Policy and Commitments staff in MOD head office lead on cross-governmental engagement. Permanent joint headquarters (PJHQ) staff are consulted and contribute on operational and tactical matters to provide an integrated HMG response.

At the tactical level, as part of the UK's comprehensive approach to our operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans, personnel in theatre engage regularly with their deployed counterparts in the FCO and DfID. PJHQ staff monitor and advise as necessary on these interactions.

The MOD has also developed a formal agreement with DfID on the provision of military assistance to humanitarian relief operations and is in the process of agreeing service levels with the FCO on the provision of military assistance to evacuation operations.

War Pensions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many war pensions were awarded under the Naval, Military and Air Forces, Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pension Order in each year between 2001-02 and 2004-05. [134537]

Derek Twigg: The number of war pensions awarded under the Naval, Military and Air Forces, Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pension Order is by year shown in the following table.

War pensions

	Number
2001-02	5,945
2002-03	5,075
2003-04	4,530
2004-05	4,230

Note:
Data have been rounded to the nearest five.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Productivity

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to help improve the productivity of farming. [136075]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: Total factor productivity for UK farming, which shows the volume of output leaving the industry per unit of all inputs including fixed capital and labour, rose by 2.1 per cent. in 2006. More information about the productivity levels of UK farming can be found in the DEFRA publication 'Agriculture in the United Kingdom'.

DEFRA continues to conduct research, at both the farm level and through aggregate comparisons with other countries, into what influences the productivity of UK farming.

Improving productivity is 'a key element for our vision for farming, which identifies an industry that is profitable in the market place, makes a positive net environmental contribution and manages the landscape and the natural assets that underlie it.

We are undertaking a range of actions to improve the competitive position of farming in England. These include:

i. The use of Axis 1 funding of the new Rural Development Programme for England, which will be used to promote greater awareness of market opportunities, including for diversified enterprises, the benefits of collaboration and co-operation, and the acquisition of skills needed to exploit new opportunities.

ii. Restructuring the five statutory horticulture and agriculture levy boards into one overarching levy board with subsidiary, sectoral companies, thus allowing for efficiencies and commonalities to be identified, in order to help the sectors involved. For example, the new structure will facilitate exchange of information across the sectors on issues of common interest such as water and waste.

iii. In addition to that available under the agriculture development scheme, the Government have provided a significant amount of dedicated funding to the Food Chain Centre and the Red Meat and Cereals Industry Forums, and English Farming and Food Partnerships, as a transitional measure to help the industry adapt to a more market-orientated future.

iv. Implementation of the non-food crops strategy, which aims to drive forward the bio-based economy through research, dissemination of technology and knowledge, and building supply chains from agriculture to industry.

v. Supporting the quality regional food sector through a five year £5 million programme (which began in 2003-04) with the specific objective of creating a flourishing high quality regional food sector.

vi. Working with stakeholders to progress the action plan to develop organic food and farming in England which aims to create a sustainable and competitive organic farming and food sector.

vii. Support for farmers to take advantage of financial risk management products to enable them to be more resilient to increased price volatility, and to increase uptake of the business benchmarking software that is available under through the whole farm approach.

viii. Helping farmers and growers under the public sector food procurement initiative (PSFPI) to develop the capabilities and capacity necessary to meet the public sector's requirements for food.

ix. Establishment of the biomass action plan with the objective of addressing barriers to the production of biomass energy, and stimulating the development of the sector.

x. Improving the regulation of farming, by making it more effective, and efficient for farmers, thus helping them to reduce costs and increase competitiveness.

xi. The whole farm approach (WFA) helps farmers to identify where there is a regulatory requirement and the actions necessary to fulfil that requirement, supported by targeted help and guidance.

xii. Developing a business competence framework for the environmental and land-based sectors to provide a clear understanding of what skills an individual will require to work in particular industries and in particular jobs within those industries.

xiii. Supporting the initiative which aims to encourage new people into the farming industry with the appropriate skills to succeed in a market-driven environment.

Black Environment Network: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have provided to the Black Environment Network; for what purpose the funding was provided; and what the outcome of such funding has been, broken down by project. [135406]

Barry Gardiner: The following table shows funding contributions to the Black Environment Network (BEN) over recent years from English Nature and the Countryside Agency (CA), as founding bodies for Natural England.

£

	Countryside Agency	*English Nature*	*Natural England*
2002-03	13,300	3,000	—
2003-04	7,700	3,000	—
2004-05	7,800	7,000	—
2005-06	5,200	3,000	—
2006-07	0	0	0
Totals	34,000	16,000	—

No payments have been made to BEN after 1 October 2006 from any of the founding bodies, or Natural England.

English Nature (EN) had a long standing relationship with BEN and recognised the valuable work done to support and develop the involvement of ethnic minority groups and individuals with the natural environment. The payments in 2004-05 and 2005-06 were to further develop their national and regional networks, and to provide English Nature staff with awareness training, advice and guidance with projects involving ethnic communities.

Through our support, BEN was able to improve its network administration and support, further develop its website, and share good practice. An English Nature staff training event was very successful and well attended. Staff gained confidence and understanding, and were able to follow up and seek specific advice on their projects.

Additionally, the CA provided a three year grant to fund specific posts within BEN from January 2002 to March 2005.

BEN received funding of £98,473 over three years for their project 'Core Strategic Programme' under the Environmental Action Fund (EAF) 2002-05.

The project aim was to support and enable ethnic participation in sustainable development through developing the knowledge, skills and values needed to make decisions about how they do things, individually and collectively, locally and globally.

Key project activities and outcomes included:

Work developing and strengthening BEN as an infrastructural organisation

Enabling active participation in sustainable living,

Formalisation and promotion of partnership initiatives focussed on ethnic environmental participation,

Strategic participation in mainstream environmental movement, in order to maintain profile of ethnic community environmental participation,

Publication and promotion of resource materials based on models of good practice, in order to stimulate ethnic community environmental participation,

Development and promotion of BEN as a training and consultancy resource for ethnic community environmental participation.

Departments: Expenditure

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* temporary staff accommodation and *(b)* travel expenses in each year since 2001. [134676]

Barry Gardiner: The Department does not maintain a discrete record of expenditure on temporary staff accommodation.

Details of travel expenses can be found under other administration costs in the notes to the Department's resource accounts.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff were employed in the press offices of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies in each year since 2001. [135243]

Barry Gardiner: The number of press officers in Core DEFRA is tabulated as follows, with the census point for the number of press officers taken as June for each year. The staffing numbers for the Press Office fluctuate during the course of any one year.

Staff number as at June

	Press officers
2001	22
2002	22
2003	22
2004	18
2005	24
2006	24

The DEFRA Press Office provides services for the Central Science Laboratory, Government Decontamination Service, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Pesticide Safety Directorate, Veterinary Laboratory Agency, and Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

The number of staff employed in the press offices of each of the remaining DEFRA agencies of CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences) and the Rural Payments Agency, in each year since 2001 is tabulated as follows:

	Agency	
	CEFAS	*RPA*
2001	0.02	0.2
2002	0.03	0.2
2003	0.03	0.2
2004	0.68	0.2
2005	1.0	0.2
2006	1.0	1.0

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies spent on staff employed in press agencies in each year since 2001. [135244]

Barry Gardiner: The salary and directly related costs for all permanent and temporary staff for both Press Officers and support staff were as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2001-02	1.3
2002-03	1.2
2003-04	1.1
2004-05	1.3
2005-06	1.8
2006-07	1.5

The DEFRA Press Office provides press office services for the Central Science Laboratory, Government Decontamination Service, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Pesticide Safety Directorate, Veterinary Laboratory Agency, and Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

The costs for Press Officers and support staff in each of the remaining DEFRA agencies of CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences) and the Rural Payments Agency, in each year since 2001 were as follows:

£

Agency	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
CEFAS	900	936	18,140	41,222	50,201	43,553
RPA	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	40,000	132,000

Departments: Orders and Regulations

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many regulations were implemented by his Department in each year since 2001. [136338]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: The number of Statutory Instruments implemented by the Department for the years 2001-06 are: 2001—133 (includes those implemented by MAFF up to June 2001); 2002—120; 2003—106; 2004—125; 2005—144; 2006—150; The figure to date for 2007 is 59.

DEFRA is committed to a comprehensive programme of regulating better. Our December 2006 simplification plan, maximising outcomes, minimising burdens, explains the action that is being taken across DEFRA and its agencies to reduce administrative burdens and to improve regulations, and identifies over 130 separate initiatives that will contribute to meeting our target of reducing the administrative burden we impose on business by 25 per cent. by 2010. Those initiatives are scheduled to deliver an annual administrative burden reduction of around £159 million. That includes removing redundant legislation, without compromising environmental standards, seeking alternatives to traditional regulation and taking a risk-based approach to enforcement and inspection. A copy of the simplification plan is available from the Library of the House.

Departments: Regulation

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to decrease the level of regulatory burden for which his Department is responsible. [136076]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: DEFRA is committed to a comprehensive programme of regulating better. Our December 2006 'Simplification Plan, Maximising Outcomes, Minimising Burdens', explains the action that is being taken across DEFRA and its agencies to reduce administrative burdens and to improve regulations. That includes removing redundant legislation, without compromising environmental standards, seeking alternatives to traditional regulation and taking a risk-based approach to enforcement and inspection.

The Simplification Plan, which is available from the Library of the House, identifies over 130 separate initiatives that will contribute to meeting our target of reducing the administrative burden we impose on business by 25 per cent. by 2010. Those initiatives are scheduled to deliver an annual administrative burden reduction of around £159 million. They include:

Movements of hazardous waste—simplifying paperwork for monitoring movements will deliver savings of £2.1 million.

Whole Farm Approach—the administrative saving for farmers is estimated at £2.9 million by 2009-10 (based on current uptake).

Replacement of the over 30 month scheme with the older cattle disposal scheme—will deliver administrative savings of £3.49 million by the end of 2008.

Fruit and vegetable marketing standards (introduction of electronic certificates of conformity with EU marketing standards)—will achieve administrative savings of £3.22 million in 2007.

The Game licensing review—realises administrative savings of £0.6 million per annum—starting in mid-2007.

Eggs

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking under the public sector food procurement initiative to encourage public sector bodies to purchase non-cage eggs when procuring food and meals; and if he will make a statement. [135588]

Barry Gardiner: The public sector food procurement initiative does not have specific guidance on purchasing eggs. Key objectives of the initiative, which apply to all food purchases, include increasing tendering opportunities for small and local food producers, raising standards of production, and addressing barriers to supply.

DEFRA's Procurement and Contracts Division has included a model specification clause on farm assurance standards in the public sector food procurement initiative's catering toolkit. This is helping to raise the profile of animal welfare in public sector food procurement and facilitate the purchase of products from welfare friendly producers.

In the longer term, the European Commission's "Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-10" proposes quantifiable animal welfare indicators and an EU welfare labelling scheme for products produced from high welfare protection systems. This should enable public sector purchasers to make more informed decisions.

Fishing Catches

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the amount of fish discarded in UK waters in each month since January 2006 by *(a)* UK vessels and *(b)* non-UK vessels; and if he will make a statement. [133078]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is as follows:

(a) It is not possible to provide figures for discards solely in UK waters. The discard estimates used by ICES in stock assessments are carried out in relation to particular sea areas (e.g. the North Sea) rather than national waters.

Since 2002 all EU countries have been required to collect data on discarding under Council Regulation 1543/2000, but the information is not yet compiled systematically. Quantities of discards are estimated quarterly using data collected by scientific observers aboard commercial fishing vessels. They are required to record the quantity landed and discarded, and the species and size composition of the discards each time the fishing gear is hauled. Deploying scientific observers in this manner is expensive and time consuming, with the result that it is usually only possible to sample a small proportion of the overall fishing trips in a given area. As a result it is necessary to extrapolate from the limited sampling to provide estimates for the entire fleet. Although the sampling is intended to cover a representative sample of the fleet, this does mean that the estimates of total discards are subject to uncertainty.

Quarterly figures for discards of some important commercial species in 2006 are given in the following table. The table also includes estimates of landings and discard rates by the same fleet segments in order to provide an indication of the relative importance of discarding in each case. The figures given are as follows:

Country	Area	Species	Type	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
English and Welsh registered vessels	North Sea ICES sub-area IV	Cod	L	240.4	214.9	406.4	323.8
			D	20.5	65.4	243.1	252.2
			DR (%)	7.9	23.3	37.4	43.8
		Haddock	L	68.2	50.6	75.7	107.0
			D	23.8	35.3	148.5	102.6
			DR (%)	25.8	41.1	66.2	48.9
		Plaice	L	1,390.0	1,432.5	2,119.7	1,425.0
			D	17.9	4.9	290.9	37.1
			DR (%)	1.3	0.3	12.1	2.5
		Sole	L	141.6	48.9	35.7	99.9
			D	0.1	29.4	0.0	7.6
			DR (%)	0.1	37.5	0.0	7.1
		Whiting	L	668.8	538.2	831.9	369.0
			D	260.4	54.7	334.9	735.3
			DR (%)	28.0	9.2	28.7	66.6
Scottish registered vessels	North Sea ICES sub-area IV	Cod	L	1,505.8	1,918.8	2,003.0	1,136.1
			D	262.1	587.3	331.1	489.1
			DR (%)	14.8	23.4	14.2	30.1
		Haddock	L	9,744.0	4,792.0	9,882.0	7,081.8
			D	2,669.2	3,503.2	5,262.9	3,234.1
			DR (%)	21.5	42.2	34.8	31.4
		Saithe	L	2,671.6	2,769.1	1,579.1	712.8
			D	1,366.1	955.6	2,648.9	752.1
			DR (%)	33.8	25.7	62.7	51.3
		Whiting	L	2,189.9	1,891.6	1,843.0	2,017.1
			D	1,122.1	933.4	1,114.2	1,287.1
			DR (%)	33.9	33.0	37.7	39.0
Scottish registered vessels	West of Scotland ICES Division VIa	Cod	L	70.2	100.6	93.6	43.3
			D	19.9	32.8	214.1	53.8
			DR (%)	22.1	24.6	69.6	55.4
		Haddock	L	1,150.7	1,938.4	1,218.0	596.2
			D	680.9	1,205.2	1,961.6	605.5
			DR (%)	37.2	38.3	61.7	50.4
		Saithe	L	603.3	648.6	399.8	706.9
			D	233.2	755.7	302.3	407.0
			DR (%)	27.9	53.8	43.1	36.5
		Whiting	L	35.0	42.9	48.6	50.9

Country	Area	Species	Type	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
			D	99.4	104.0	246.3	197.8
			DR (%)	73.9	70.8	83.5	79.5

Notes
L: Estimated landings (tonnes)
D: Estimated discards (tonnes)
DR: Discard rate, i.e. percentage of total catch in weight that is discarded.

There are a number of reasons for these discards. The mixed nature of most fisheries in EU waters means that fish of these and other species often swim together with others which fishermen have no interest in (for example because there is no market for the fish or they have no relevant quota allocation), all of which may be caught at the same time. Discards also arise from the catching of juvenile or undersized fish. In order to avoid this happening and those fish that are not required having to be discarded, UK Fisheries Departments are funding a range of work, in collaboration with the industry, looking at making the respective fishing activity more selective in terms of either species or size. The industry will be encouraged to use any such gear modifications which prove successful. The EU Commission has also made clear in its recent publication on discards that it attaches high priority to tackling this issue throughout EU waters.

(b) Discard estimates from other EU countries are not yet available for 2006, but these should appear later in the year. The UK is continuing to press the Commission to ensure all member states provide full sets of the relevant data. In the longer term, there are plans to develop a "Discards Atlas"—a compendium of available information from member states on discards—as a resource for fisheries science.

Food Supply

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to improve food security in Great Britain. [136081]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: My Department published Food Security and the UK: An Evidence and Analysis Paper, a wide-ranging study on Food Security, in December 2006.

DEFRA is improving food security by promoting continuity and contingency planning in the food chain. By strengthening trading relationships, based on more open international markets and reductions in trade distorting subsidies, we increase UK food security by unlocking access to a diversity of supply sources.

In a modern economy, the production, availability and distribution of all our food is dependent upon a secure energy and fuel supply, as well as upon other transport infrastructure. It is clear that our food chain—whatever the degree of agricultural self-sufficiency—relies on various forms of energy and that energy security is a primary concern. The Government's 'Energy Review', published in July 2006, specifically considered how our energy security can be maintained and enhanced in an uncertain world.

The food retailers have robust and resilient business continuity plans to deal with any threat of disruption. DEFRA works closely with all parts of the industry to ensure that appropriate support is provided.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for commercial growers of GM crops if beekeepers refuse to place their hives near to GM crops. [133984]

Ian Pearson: The potential implications would depend on the type of GM crop being grown and the specific policy that beekeepers were following. No commercial GM cropping is expected here for several years at least and it is difficult to make firm assumptions about the circumstances that might arise in the future. What can be said is that GM crops will only be grown here commercially if they are approved as safe at EU level, and if there is a market for them because they offer some recognised benefit. We know that beekeepers have concerns about GM presence in honey, and we will continue to discuss the coexistence of GM and honey production with them. From a regulatory standpoint it should not generally be necessary to avoid placing hives near to GM crops, as research has shown that any GM presence in honey should always be well below the 0.9 per cent. EU labelling threshold.

Honey: East Riding

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value of *(a)* borage honey production, *(b)* pollination services from honey bees and *(c)* borage crop was in the East Riding of Yorkshire in the last period for which figures are available. [133983]

Ian Pearson: The information sought is not being collected and is therefore not available.

Mackerel: Fishing Catches

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the track record basis is for the figure of 257 tonnes of North sea mackerel for under 10 metre vessels in the initial allocation for 2007; and whether the records used show the extent of catches taken in areas IVa, b and c by vessels in each of those areas. [135618]

Mr. Bradshaw: This allocation is not made on the basis of a track record. The allocation for 10 metre and under vessels in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) area IVa is a fixed share

(300 tonnes) of the UK's opening quota for North Sea mackerel. This may change during the year following swaps with other groups. In 2007, their initial allocation was reduced by 43 tonnes to 257 tonnes as a result of a UK overfish of North sea mackerel in 2006.

Details of end year allocations and landings of mackerel by 10 metre and under vessels from areas IVa, b and c for the last five years are set out in the following table.

Tonnes (liveweight)

	End year alloc. for area IVa (incl. swaps)	Landings from Northern North sea (area IVa)	End year alloc. for area IVbc (incl. swaps)	Landings from central North sea (area IVb)	Landings from Southern North sea (area IVc)
2002	299	251	0	6	5
2003	315	357	11	5	5
2004	324	322	0	0	5
2005	364	365	26	0	4
2006	333	409	19	13	2

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any of the 257 tonnes of North sea mackerel for under 10 metre vessels is available to vessels for areas IVb and c. [135619]

Mr. Bradshaw: None of the UK's opening quota for North sea mackerel, which is allocated to the 10 metre and under fishing by handline, is available to vessels operating in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) areas IVb or IVc. However, following representations received from fishermen in the North East and East Anglia, Fisheries Administrations have acquired 40 tonnes of North sea mackerel, through an international swap, for their use in 2007. They are continuing to explore the scope to acquire further quota. In the meantime, we will be consulting interested parties shortly on management arrangements for this fishery.

Meat: Smuggling

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of illegal meat imported into the UK in each year since 2001? [135240]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to make an accurate estimate of the number of illegal meat imports because they are illegal and therefore, clandestine.

The Government have significantly increased the amount of money available to tackle illegal imports of Products Of Animal Origin (POAO), plants and Plant Based Goods (PBG). £25 million has been spent over the past three years. This money was split between DEFRA, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) shown as follows:

£ million

	HMRC[1]	FSA[2]	DEFRA[3]
2003-04	4	1.5	0.5
2004-05	7	2	1
2005-06	7	2	1

[1] HMRC: enforcement and publicity.
[2] FSA: step change project with local/port health authorities.
[3] DEFRA: publicity and risk.
Note:
£1 million extra spend.

The current level of funding has been included in HMRC's allocation for future years. Funding will also continue to be available for DEFRA to examine the risks and help increase public awareness, and for the FSA for work on inland controls.

Since April 2001, seizures of illegal meat imported into the UK have been recorded and are shown in the following table:

As at 1 April to 31 March each year	Seizures (kilograms)
2001-02	18,955
2002-03	31,301
2003-04	72,734
2004-05	78,664
2005-06	106,135

The table includes seizures made by HMRC at points of entry (and by staff funded by DEFRA until 11 April 2003), those made by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI) at points of entry in Northern Ireland, and those made by inland local/port health authorities. HMRC have been responsible for anti-smuggling controls on POAO into Great Britain since 11 April 2003.

It is not possible to say whether the increase in seizures is a result of more smuggling activity. It is equally likely to be the result of greater surveillance and enforcement.

Rights of Way: Prosecutions

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were prosecuted for obstructing Rights of Way in each of the last five years. [135209]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Data extracted from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of defendants proceeded against for offences relating to obstructing Rights of Way in England and Wales, 2001 to 2005 are shown in the following table.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for obstructing Rights of Way, England and Wales, 2001 to 2005[1,2]

Offence	Statute	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Failure to comply with order to remove obstruction. Failure to comply with order to remove obstruction after conviction.	Highways Act, 1980 S.137ZA(3) as added by Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 s.64	1	1	5	2	3
Total		1	1	5	2	3

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Rural Areas: Low Incomes

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* English farming households and *(b)* households in rural areas with incomes below the Department for Work and Pension's low income threshold. [135245]

Barry Gardiner: For the population as a whole, the Government have a preferred measure of 'low income' defined as 60 per cent. of the median equivalised income for all UK households after tax. It may be presented either before housing costs or after housing costs. The Farm Business Survey is not able to provide figures for household income net of tax so farm household incomes cannot be compared directly with the low income threshold. Instead, they are compared with a modified low income threshold defined as 60 per cent. of the England median equivalised income before tax (and before housing costs).

This has been calculated from 2004-05 Family Resources Survey data. Table 1 shows that:

- the mean income for farm households was higher than the national mean but the median income was about the same;
- both mean and median farm incomes were lower than for the population of self-employed households;
- 31 per cent. of farm households were below the modified low income threshold (gross before housing costs) in 2005-06 compared with 21 per cent. for all households and 18 per cent. for self-employed households.

Table 1: Equivalised household income and low-income threshold, England 2005-06

	Average household income, equivalised, gross before housing costs (£ household)			
	Mean	Median	Modified low income threshold (£ household)	Percentage of households below low income threshold
Household of principal farmers	33,900	22,700	—	31
All households	30,200	23,000	13,800	21
Self-employed households	38,000	27,000	—	18

Sources:
Farm Business Survey (England) and Family Resources Survey (2004-05)

Household income data for rural households are not available. However, Table 2 shows the percentage of working age people living in England in households with an income of 60 per cent. below the GB median. Figures are broken down by DEFRA's local authority (LA) classification. The classification divides LAs into the following six categories:

- Rural-80: districts with at least 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
- Rural-50: districts with at least 50 per cent. but less than 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
- Significant Rural: districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
- Other Urban: districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
- Large Urban: districts with either 50,000 people or 50 per cent. of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000.
- Major Urban: districts with either 100,000 people or 50 per cent. of their population in urban areas with a population of more than 750,000.

Table 2: Percentage of working-age adults living in low income households in England, by LA classification 2004-05

	Before housing costs	After hosing costs
Rural 80	11	15
Rural 50	11	14
Significant rural	12	16
Other urban	13	18
Large urban	15	20
Major urban	16	22

Notes:
Estimates are based on 3-year averages. 2004-05 uses data for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.
Low income is defined as households with an income of below 60 per cent. of the median income for GB.
Source:
DWP Family Resource Survey, 2004-05

Rural Payments Agency: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at the Rural Payments Agency in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost was of those bonuses in each year. [132832]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) was formed in 2001, and we only hold data from 2003 onwards.

The following table shows how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working in the RPA between 2003 and 2006.

	Number of bonuses	*Amount of bonus (£)*
2003	5	28,845.00
2004	6	51,640.60
2005	7	55,062.25
2006	4	33,000.00

Tree Planting

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 460W, on tree planting, when he expects the revised English Forest Strategy to be published. [135970]

Barry Gardiner: I can confirm that the England Forestry Strategy "England's Trees, Woods and Forests" will be published in the summer.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Abdul Hameed

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations for commutation to the Pakistani authorities following the death sentence handed down by the courts there upon Abdul Hameed for the crime of blasphemy. [135756]

Mr. Hoon: We regularly raise our concerns regarding blasphemy laws and the use of the death penalty with the Pakistan authorities and will continue to do so. In December 2006, together with EU partners, we reiterated to the Government of Pakistan our concerns about the effects of blasphemy legislation and its frequent abuse. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, Ian McCartney, most recently raised this issue in correspondence with the Government of Pakistan in February.

Although we do not usually raise individual cases, we follow closely the subject of blasphemy trials in Pakistan. Officials receive reports on blasphemy trials from human rights groups and monitor cases reported in the media. We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. We, together with our EU partners, call upon all states to abolish the death penalty for all crimes and forever.

China: Animal Welfare

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Government of China on animal welfare issues in China; and if she will make a statement. [135747]

Mr. McCartney: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (Barry Gardiner), raised animal welfare issues with the Chinese Government during his visit in July 2006. We continue to encourage the Chinese Government to establish laws that regulate treatment of animals, including domestic pets, and welcome the work that non-governmental organisations such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals undertake with the Chinese authorities to improve standards and to build support in China for animal welfare issues. We also support a proposed EU ban on the import of domestic cat and dog fur.

China: Human Rights

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Government of China on *(a)* human rights in China and *(b)* the human rights of followers of Falun Gong in China. [136409]

Mr. McCartney: We raise a comprehensive range of human rights issues, including the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners, with the Chinese Government at the biannual UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, the most recent of which was held in February. We also work bilaterally and through the EU to raise human rights concerns at every appropriate opportunity, including at senior level. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised freedom of expression with the head of the Chinese Information Office for the State Council in April. He also raised human rights with Chinese Premier Wen in September 2006. Officials regularly raise concerns at working level in Beijing.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the numbers of *(a)* religious and *(b)* political prisoners in China; what her estimate is of the number of such prisoners who are followers of Falun Gong; and if she will make a statement. [136410]

Mr. McCartney: We do not estimate the number of religious and political prisoners in China, or the number of those who are followers of Falun Gong but continue to urge China to improve transparency of statistics. At the most recent round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in February, we asked the Chinese Government to confirm how many Falun Gong practitioners are currently detained. We are still awaiting a response.

Greece: Whales

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Minister for Europe had with the Greek Foreign Minister and Europe Minister on 24 April on Greece's possible membership of the International Whaling Commission; and if she will make a statement. [135522]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe (Mr. Hoon) has had no discussions with Greek Ministers on the subject of whaling, but

following discussions at official level with our embassy in Athens, Greece has indicated that it intends to join the International Whaling Commission (IWC). We welcome this move. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials remain in close contact with their Greek counterparts, and recently met representatives from the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the IWC.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Government of Sudan on support for militia recruitment in Niger to fight in Darfur. [135755]

Mr. McCartney: We are not currently aware of militia recruitment from Niger to fight in Darfur. We are investigating these claims.

We are continuing to press the Government of Sudan to comply with its obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1706 to disarm all militia operating in Darfur. If they do not comply, we will move towards further sanctions and an extension of the existing UN arms embargo in the UN Security Council.

Sudan: Libya

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with Libya on the situation in Darfur. [135513]

Mr. McCartney: We have regular contacts with the Libyan Government on Darfur. We have encouraged the Libyans to work with the African Union (AU)/UN.

The UK's special representative for Sudan, Mr. Christopher Prentice, attended a meeting in Tripoli on 28 April on the political track of the Darfur peace process. The representatives agreed that all regional mediation initiatives should converge under AU/UN leadership; urged all parties to show serious commitment and accelerate preparations for negotiations; warned of the consequences of obstructing progress; and encouraged the AU/UN to intensify their work to agree a road-map for renewed negotiations.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she plans to take to further a ceasefire agreement in Darfur prior to the deployment of the African Union-UN peacekeeping force. [135510]

Mr. McCartney: We are continuing to press the Government of Sudan and the rebel movements in Darfur to uphold their commitments to a ceasefire. The Government of Sudan reaffirmed their commitment to a ceasefire at a meeting in Tripoli of 28-29 April organised by the Libyans to discuss the political track of the Darfur peace process.

But we have made clear that all sides to the conflict will be judged by their actions. If they do not abide by their commitments, we will move towards further sanctions and an extension of the existing UN arms embargo in the UN Security Council.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on progress on Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement, with particular reference to the handling of boundary disputes. [135511]

Mr. McCartney: We are concerned at the slow progress being made to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The Government of National Unity need to urgently resolve a number of difficult issues including the Abyei and North/South boundary disputes. While the Abyei dispute continues, the people of Abyei are without access to basic services. The parties must establish an interim administration there immediately. The North/South Border Technical Committee needs to accelerate its work, as its conclusions affect other elements of the CPA including elections and wealth sharing.

We continue to urge both sides to implement the CPA in full, including at meetings of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission tasked with monitoring CPA implementation. We also raised CPA implementation at the Sudan Consortium in Khartoum (19-21 March) and in the UN Security Council during discussions of the renewal of the UN mission in Sudan's mandate last month.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to renew the UN Mission in Sudan mandate. [135512]

Mr. McCartney: UN Security Council Resolution 1755 renewed the UN mission in Sudan's mandate for another six months on 30 April.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans are in place to disarm janjaweed militias in Darfur. [135515]

Mr. McCartney: The Government of Sudan announced its plan to disarm the janjaweed in 2006. However, there has been little action since then. We are continuing to press the Government of Sudan to comply with its commitment obligation under UN Security Council Resolution 1706 to disarm the janjaweed. If they do not comply, we will move towards further sanctions and an extension of the existing UN arms embargo in the UN Security Council.

Uganda: Commonwealth

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contingencies have been put in place for an alternative venue for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting planned in Kampala. [135894]

Mr. McCartney: The Commonwealth Secretariat confirmed on 26 April that Kampala would be the venue for the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). Any decision about changing the CHOGM venue would be for the Commonwealth Secretariat to take, in consultation with member states.

We want CHOGM to take place in Uganda and for it to be a success.

We have important concerns about the state of governance in Uganda, particularly with respect to the independence of the judiciary, political space for the opposition and recent incidences of violence. We are working with the Government of Uganda to resolve these concerns. We continue to stress that CHOGM presents a historic opportunity for Uganda to demonstrate that it is building an inclusive and pluralist society and we will continue to press for progress on the issues of concern.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Ugandan authorities on the re-arrest of the nine People's Redemption Army suspects granted bail by the High Court; and if she will make a statement. [135622]

Mr. McCartney: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1394W.

Uganda: Violence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made on the recent attacks on Asian businesses in Kampala, Uganda; and if she will make a statement. [135895]

Mr. McCartney: We are particularly disturbed by the racially motivated aspects of the violence by some demonstrators during street protests in Kampala on 12 April. We welcome President Museveni's statement of 13 April condemning the violence, in which he said that

> "to attack, insult or damage the property of any Ugandan or guests of Uganda is something the National Resistance Movement government will not tolerate".

We also condemn all such violence and call on all sides to show restraint and respect the rule of law during demonstrations. We are talking to the Ugandan Government about developing a 'Code of Conduct' for running and policing demonstrations.

We have expressed our concerns to the Ugandan Government about the importance of responsible and proportionate policing during demonstrations. Our high commissioner in Kampala raised this most recently with Foreign Minister Kutesa on 25 April.

The violence followed demonstrations protesting about the Ugandan Government's plans to give away parts of Mabira forest to the Ugandan Sugar Corporation. Two Ugandans and one Indian national were killed and Asian businesses were attacked.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Environment: Technology

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Department plans to publish proposals on environmental technology and its employment potential. [125934]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I am deputy chair of the Cabinet Committee on Energy and the Environment, which develops the Government's energy and environmental policies, monitors the impact on sustainable development of the Government's policies, and considers issues of climate change, security of supply and affordability of energy.

The UK environmental goods and services industry is strong, well established and diverse, employing approximately 400,000 people in around 17,000 companies, with an estimated annual turnover of £25 billion. A recent joint report by the Department for Trade and Industry and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 'A Study of the Emerging Markets in the Environmental Sector', estimates that this turnover will increase to more than £34 billion by 2010 and £46 billion by 2015. This is available on the DTI website at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/sectors/environmental/index.html

A Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance was established in November last year and will publish its report in the spring. It will make recommendations on how the UK can make the most of the opportunity that environmental protection can present for wealth creation and employment growth. The Commission is jointly chaired by the Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and for Trade and Industry, and its membership is drawn from business, non-governmental organisations, academia, trade unions and public-sector organisations.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Ministers in her Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135538]

Hilary Armstrong: This Government publish an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 26 July 2006 and is available in the Library for the reference of members. Information for 2006-07 is currently in the process of being collected and will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many complaints of sexual

harassment have been investigated in her office in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135377]

Hilary Armstrong: In order to protect the confidentiality of individuals, it is standard Government practice not to publish records relating to five or fewer individuals.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people took sick leave for stress in the Prime Minister's Office in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135468]

Hilary Armstrong: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office.

In order to protect the confidentiality of individuals, it is standard Government practice not to publish records relating to five or fewer individuals.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total value in grants made by the v organisation has been to date, broken down by type of grant; and if she will make a statement. [136373]

Edward Miliband: Between May 2006 and May 2007 v has made grants totalling £13 million to projects in order to provide volunteering opportunities for over 59,000 young people. The grants provided for 22,000 short-term volunteering opportunities, 13,000 part-time, 1,200 full-time and 23,000 through volunteer development teams which work with statutory bodies to enable them to create volunteering opportunities for young people.

A further 55,000 volunteering opportunities have been created through match funding and partnerships with the private sector.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the v organisation has spent on *(a)* staff, *(b)* administration, *(c)* marketing, *(d)* branding, *(e)* communications and *(f)* web design and maintenance; and if she will make a statement. [136374]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1312-13W and on 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 468W.

Full details of the organisations expenditure will be included in its annual report, which will be published later this year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there were of under-age purchasers of alcohol in each year for which figures are available. [134854]

Mr. Coaker: Data extracted from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of defendants prosecuted for being under-age purchasers of alcohol from 1995 to 2005 in England and Wales is shown in the following table. Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

As an alternative to court proceedings, the offence under section 149(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 of buying or attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18 can attract a Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND). The offence was added to the scheme in 2005 and there were 21 Penalty Notices issued that year. The provisional figure for 2006 shows that 70 Penalty Notices were issued during that year.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor, England and Wales 1995 to 2005[1,2]

Offence	*Statute*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor. Person under 18 buying or consuming intoxicating liquor in Licensed premises.	Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(2). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(2)	25	33	31	39	38	24	21	16	29	21	21

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 and the Licensing Act 1964 were repealed by the Licensing Act 2003 which came into force on 24 November 2005. There were no prosecutions for the newly created offence under the 2003 Act of buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18 (Section 149(1)(a)) in 2005. The figure for 2005 in the above table represents the number of defendants proceeded against under the old statute (Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(2). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(2)).

Asylum

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average processing time is for a claim by an asylum seeker or refugee with extraordinary leave to remain for indefinite leave to remain; and how many such claims are in process as of 17 April. [131843]

Mr. Byrne: As of April 2007, there are just under 6,000 such applications[1] awaiting decision. An expanded team is working to clear these cases as quickly as possible.

The Border and Immigration Agency does not record average processing time.

The data are not provided under the national statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria his Department uses for granting people political asylum in the UK. [132659]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: The Border and Immigration Agency uses the criteria laid down in the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, as interpreted in Council Directive 2004/83/EC of the European Union. These criteria are set out in the Refugee or Person in Need of International Protection (Qualification) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No.2525) and in the Immigration Rules (in particular the Statement of changes Cm 6918 of 18 September 2006), to which decision makers have regard when granting people political asylum in the UK.

The criteria are detailed and explained in the Asylum Policy Instruction "Assessing the Claim", which can be found on the website of the Border and Immigration Agency at

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/asylumpolicyinstructions/

Asylum: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had their deportations from the UK stopped in 2006 because their destination was deemed too dangerous, broken down by country of origin. [132599]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is unavailable and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Border and Immigration Agency

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much his Department has spent on the transition of the immigration and nationality directorate to the Border and Immigration Agency; [132574]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the regionalisation of the Border and Immigration Agency. [132596]

Mr. Byrne: Both the regionalisation of the Border and Immigration Agency and the transition to full agency status are ongoing projects which are at early stages. It is expected that both the regionalisation and transition to shadow agency status will be delivered within the current resources available to the department.

Deportation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice is given to deportation escorts on the tightness of handcuffs on deportees; and if he will make a statement. [134973]

Mr. Byrne: All immigration escorting staff are trained in the application of handcuffs.

They are taught that handcuffs must be checked for security and comfort on application and then periodically whilst they remain in place. The handcuffs should ensure effective security but not be overly constrictive so that the skin is not pinched or circulation restricted.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people reported drug use in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. [135993]

Mr. Coaker: The main source of estimates of self-reported drug use is the British Crime Survey (BCS) but this provides information at the national and regional level only. However, the Home Office has commissioned a research study to provide estimates of the number of problematic opiate and crack cocaine users at local and national level. The results of the first year of this three-year study estimated that there were about 893 problem drug users (probable range 447 to 907) in Bexley Drug Action Team area in 2004-05. There are no comparable estimates available for previous years but this research project will produce estimates for 2005-06 and 2006-07 in the future.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of women who have been trafficked into the UK for each of the last three years for which figures are available. [135283]

Mr. Coaker: The nature of the crime makes it difficult to make an accurate assessment of the extent of the problem although intelligence suggests there has been an increase on the trafficking problem over the last two or three years. In order to understand the situation better the Serious Organised Crime Agency, along with the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre is working to improve intelligence collection as a priority and this features strongly in the national intelligence requirements for 2006-07 and 2007-08.

However, emerging findings from a Home Office research paper due to be published this year estimate that at any one time in 2003 there were in the region of 4,000 female victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK.

Illegal Immigrants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were referred by police forces to the Border and Immigration Agency in each year between 1997 and 2006; and how many were subsequently deported in each year. [132825]

Mr. Byrne: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration and asylum statistics, including removals and deportations can be found at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Immigrants

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number of irregular migrants who are in the UK who are in employment. [134815]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1698W.

Immigration: Applications

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects a decision to be made on the application of Satpal Ghusar (reference G1002712) for indefinite leave to remain in the UK. [134134]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 April 2007]*: It would not be appropriate for me to comment on individual cases in the House, but I will write to the hon. Member on the subject that she has raised.

Manpower: Home Office

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which committees and working groups in his Department deal with identity cards policy. [133424]

Joan Ryan: There is no departmental committee or working group on identity cards policy. The introduction of identity cards is already Government policy and, within the Home Office, the Identity and Passport Service has responsibility for its implementation.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed by knife crime offences in (i) the Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997. [131273]

Mr. Coaker: The information available centrally relates to homicides by sharp instrument recorded by the police and is given in the following table. These figures are not collected below police force area level.

Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide by sharp instrument: 1997-98 to 2005-06

	North east region	England and Wales[2]
1997-98	15	202
1998-99	8	201
1999-2000	12	213
2000-01	11	214
2001-02	9	261
2002-03	14	265
2003-04	11	242
2004-05	11	256
2005-06	13	212

[1] As at 9 October 2006: figures subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information comes to light.
[2] England and Wales totals as published in 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2005/2006' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07)

Passports: Fees and Charges

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about the cost of passport renewal from women who have renewed their passports early owing to a name change following marriage his Department has received in each of the last five years. [134119]

Joan Ryan: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) does not keep records in such a way as to be able to extract this information without incurring disproportionate cost. Complaints are recorded in particular categories, each covering a range of issues. There is not a specific category for women who have complained about the cost of renewing passports early owing to change of name following marriage. However, the IPS receives regular representations on this subject. When fees are next reviewed the IPS will discuss with HM Treasury whether the rules on Government fees and charges would permit some reduction of the fee in these circumstances.

The IPS received 8,551 complaints in total in the financial year 2005-06, which represents 0.13 per cent. of the total business.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign citizens who had previously been convicted of a crime in their country of origin were subsequently convicted of *(a)* burglary, *(b)* supplying a controlled substance, *(c)* rape and *(d)* murder in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [133514]

Mr. Byrne: We do not hold comprehensive records of the nationalities of offenders.

Prisoners: Qualifications

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of prisoners in prison establishments in England and Wales achieved *(a)* GCSE, *(b)* post-GCSE and *(c)* third level qualifications in each of the last six years; and what steps he is taking to increase the number of prisoners achieving such qualifications. [136054]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not collected centrally. However, following the introduction of the Learning and Skills Council-led delivery arrangements for offender learning in England from 31 July 2006, data

on prisoner achievement will increasingly become available for adults, young offenders and juveniles in custody.

The Government's proposals for improving the education of offenders are set out in the "Reducing Re-Offending Through Skills and Employment: Next Steps" document which was published on 13 December 2006. Copies of the document were sent to all Members of Parliament on the day of publication.

Television: Licensing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue fines from unpaid television licences generated in 2004-05 and 2005-06. [134585]

Mr. Coaker: Court proceedings data are collected and published by calendar year.

A total of £11.1 million was ordered by the courts to be paid by way of fines given for offences of television licence evasion in 2004 in England and Wales where a fine was the principal disposal and this offence the principal offence for which the persons concerned were dealt with. A total of £14.4 million was similarly ordered to be paid in 2005.

Figures for 2006 will be available in the autumn of this year.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

The collection of fine amounts centrally is not sufficiently detailed to show how many of these total sums were actually paid.

Theft: Driver Information Systems

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many thefts of satellite navigation systems for cars took place in *(a)* the constituency of Ruislip-Northwood, *(b)* each London borough and *(c)* England in the last three years for which figures are available; [135825]

(2) what estimate he has made of the value of stolen satellite navigation systems for cars over the last three years for which figures are available. [135827]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for theft of satellite navigation systems are not collected centrally and no estimate has been made of the total value of those stolen.

Anecdotal evidence from a number of police forces, including the Metropolitan Police, is that this type of theft is a growing problem in some force areas. To help combat it, the Home Office met a number of the main manufacturers in 2005 and, as a result, some of the manufacturers fast-tracked the introduction of security features into new models. The Home Office also produced a crime prevention advice leaflet aimed at motorists showing them the simple steps they could take to help prevent them becoming victims of this type of crime. This leaflet is available on the Home Office website and is intended for use by police and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the insurance claim against Bedfordshire Police in relation to the fire at the Yarl's Wood detention centre in February 2002 to be settled; and if he will make a statement. [133372]

Mr. Byrne: This is a matter to be settled between the insurance company and Bedfordshire Police.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Prescription Drugs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rules are applied at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre on permitting detainees to take their medication into the centre when they are detained; and on what basis Miss Nathalie Ketchanon was refused permission to do so. [134972]

Mr. Byrne: All medication is assessed by the centre GP as to the suitability of allowing the medication to be held in possession by the detainee. Where it is decided that the medication should be held in the healthcare suite the detainee is notified and advised to attend the pharmacy at the appropriate times for dispensing.

I will write to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South regarding Miss Ketchanon.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Tribunals

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many tribunals were operated by the Child Support Agency (CSA) in each of the last five years; how much was spent on those tribunals in each year; how many appeals were received by the CSA in each year; and how much was spent on processing appeals in each year. [130677]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 9 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many tribunals were operated by the Child Support Agency (CSA) in each of the last five years; how much was spent on those tribunals in each year; how many appeals were received by the CSA in each year; and how much was spent on processing appeals in each year. [130677]

Please find attached a table detailing the number of tribunals operated by the Tribunal Service on behalf of the Child Support Agency and the number of appeals received by the Agency.

Unfortunately the information requested in respect of the cost of tribunal hearings and the cost of processing appeals is unavailable in the format requested.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Appeals received by Child Support Agency and referred to the Tribunal Service

	Appeals received by the CSA	*CSA appeals referred to Tribunal Service*
2001-02	9,800	5,300
2002-03	10,900	5,100
2003-04	8,600	4,200
2004-05	8,000	4,200
2005-06	8,000	4,400

Note
Appeals and referrals rounded to nearest 100.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135166]

Mrs. McGuire: No information is held on the number of grievance procedures that have been initiated in the Department for Work and Pensions in the last year. The Department has recently introduced a new IT resource management system. In the next 12 months it will record details of the number of grievance procedures initiated across the Department and will be able to provide information centrally.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136107]

Mrs. McGuire: When joining the Department, staff are told how to shut down personal computers as part of their initial training. Further advice is also available on the Department's intranet site and from local IT support staff. Computers are shut down each evening by the member of staff who uses them.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134049]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department is committed to meeting cross-Government sustainable operations targets which include commitments to increase recycling rates and the mandatory minimum environmental procurement product standards for paper.

(a) Photocopying paper purchased is used in both photocopiers and office printers and therefore a separate figure for photocopiers is not available.

	Usage (Percentage)
2004-05	1
2005-06	[1]Over 90
2006-07	96

[1] This followed a change of supplier, product and price and the mandatory use of recycled paper.

(b) Printed publications (this includes Department's claim packs forms and leaflets): from June 2007 all existing contracts for the supply of printed materials will cease and a new contract for the supply of Print and Associated Services will commence. This contract will meet all the sustainable operations targets for the supply of printed materials. All paper used, including paper with no recycled content, is derived from sustainable sources.

	Usage (Percentage)	
	100 per cent. content[1]	*50 per cent. content*[2]
2004-05	0	33
2005-06	32	13
2006-07	57	10

[1] Made from up to 100 per cent. post consumer waste with full Blue Angel accreditation. No bleaching is used in production and the energy supply used by the mill is also 100 per cent. green.
[2] Made from up to 50 per cent. post consumer waste and virgin fibre.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on mystery shopping exercises in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [133903]

Mrs. McGuire: Each of the Department for Work and Pensions' agencies is responsible for operating its own mystery shopping programme. The most recent available information for Jobcentre Plus and the Pension Service are in the following tables.

Jobcentre Plus expenditure on mystery-shopping programmes

	£
2003-04	676,828
2004-05	693,174
2005-06	471,368

Note
Figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

The Pension Service expenditure on mystery-shopping programmes

	£
2004-05	334,490
2005-06	291,400
2006-07	268,000

The Disability and Carers Service (DCS) has not previously used a mystery shopping programme. The DCS tested a mystery shopping programme between January and March 2007. The programme proved successful and will be fully rolled out from April 2007.

For the period January 2007 to 31 March 2007, DCS's expenditure was £22,120.

The Child Support Agency has not had a mystery shopping programme since prior to 2001. No information is available for the expenditure prior to 2001.

Departments: Telephone Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all customer helplines operated by his Department are freephone numbers. [132996]

Mrs. McGuire: No.

Most DWP helplines use 0845 numbers. The cost of contacting 0845 numbers varies depending on the time the customer calls, the contract they have with their network provider, and whether calls are made from residential lines or mobile lines. BT advises that the most popular tariff used by residential lines is BT Customer Option 1 or 2. Under these schemes, the cost of peak time calls to 0845 numbers is 2.55 pence per minute.

Customers using mobile telephones are charged at their network provider's tariff for 0845 calls and may incur a charge even when dialling an 0800 number depending on the contract they have with their network provider.

If a customer indicates that they are concerned about the cost of a call, a call back will always be offered.

A breakdown for the Department's helplines and call rates is shown in the following table.

Helpline	*Call rate*
Jobcentre Plus Jobseeker Direct	0845 Local rate
Jobcentre Plus Employer Direct	0845 Local rate
Jobcentre Plus First Contact (making a claim)	0845 Local rate. Currently an 0845 number but this is being replaced by an 0800 number. All First Contact Contact Centres will have moved to the 0800 number by the end of May 2007.
National Benefit Fraud Hotline	0800 Free to landline callers.
Disability Careers Service Helpline	0845 Local rate.
Benefit Enquiry Line	0800 Free to landline callers.
Child Support Agency National Helpline	0845 Local rate.
The Pension Service	All the following services are provided by different 0845 local rate telephone lines: General enquiries Change of circumstances Claims for State Pension Pension forecasts Winter fuel queries Welsh Language Line
Pension Credit Application Line	0800 Free to landline callers.
International Pension Centre	0191 standard rate number for those who live, or have previously lived overseas.
Debt Management	Debt Management does not operate a "helpline" as such but access to debt centres is via an 0845 local rate number.

Departments: Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1064W, on departments: training, if he will list the 20 most expensive training courses provided to Ministers and civil servants in his Department in 2006; and what the cost was of each. [133939]

Mrs. McGuire: Considerable effort and resources would need to be used on interrogating the staff information system in order to obtain information that could be used to identify the 20 most expensive training courses provided to Ministers and civil servants. Attendance at external events will have been recorded by individuals on their learning history. This information cannot be accessed centrally. Obtaining this level of information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the effect of the 2007-08 Budget on the Financial Assistance Scheme. [134428]

James Purnell: I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer I gave for question number 5 to the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne) on 23 April 2007.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of trade union safety representatives on workplace safety; and if he will assess the merits of confirming the role and rights of trade union safety representatives in law. [132938]

Mrs. McGuire: Several studies have looked at the effect of trade union safety representatives on workplace safety, including one commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive. Overall, the evidence suggests that trade union safety representatives make a positive contribution to improving health and safety standards in the workplace.

Ministers look to the Health and Safety Commission for advice on these matters. I understand it is currently looking at measures to support consultation and involvement of workers in health and safety, including better guidance. It will make recommendations to Ministers if appropriate.

The Government strongly support the efforts and dedication of all health and safety representatives in helping to make their workplaces healthier and safer.

Pension Credit

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much funding went unclaimed in *(a)* pension credit and *(b)* winter fuel allowance in each of the last five years; [134022]

(2) how many pensioners who were eligible for *(a)* pension credit and *(b)* winter fuel allowance did not claim it in each of the last five years; [134023]

(3) how many pensioners in Islwyn constituency received pension credit in each of the last five years; [134024]

(4) how many pensioners in Islwyn constituency claimed the winter fuel allowance in each of the last five years. [134025]

James Purnell: Latest estimates of the amount of pension credit left unclaimed and the number of pensioners who were eligible but not claiming pension credit can be found in the DWP publication series entitled: "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up". Copies of the annual reports are held in the Library.

The vast majority of winter fuel payments are made automatically without the need to claim as we hold sufficient information on our benefit systems. It is not possible to say how many people may be eligible for a winter fuel payment and are not receiving it. This is because not everyone aged 60 or over will be eligible for a payment. In order to assess whether a person is eligible we need to establish their circumstances and this can only be done once they have contacted the Department. A person may be ineligible for various reasons such as serving a custodial sentence, in hospital receiving free in-patient treatment for more than 52 weeks, or subject to immigration control.

All winter fuel payment information for past years is in the Library and is updated yearly. A letter was issued to all MPs in January 2005 to inform them that the information would be published and updated each year.

Pension credit was introduced in October 2003, so the following table shows the number of household recipients of pension credit in Islwyn constituency for 2003 to 2006.

Household recipients of pension credit in Islwyn constituency, 2003-06

	Household recipients
November 2003	2,800
August 2004	3,580
August 2005	3,760
August 2006	3,830

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over).
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. Data

The following table shows the number of winter fuel payments made in the Islwyn constituency over each of the last five years. Figures for winter 2006-07 are not yet available but we expect the number to be similar to that for winter 2005-06.

Islwyn constituency

	Payments made
2001-02	13,740
2002-03	14,030
2003-04	13,850
2004-05	13,660
2005-06	13,750

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

Pension Credit: West Yorkshire

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in each electoral ward in Warley constituency receive pension credit. [133779]

James Purnell: The answer is set out in the following table:

Household recipients of pension credit in each ward in Warley constituency, August 2006

Ward name	*Household recipients*
Abbey	540
Bristnall	965
Langley	905
Old Warley	785
St. Pauls	795
Smethwick	1,005
Soho and Victoria	590
Warley Constituency	5,590

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest five and totals may not sum as a result.
2. Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Service

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to extend the home visiting facility of Pension Service local teams to the under 60 age group; and if he will make a statement. [133925]

James Purnell: The Pension Service Local Service is currently running a feasibility pilot in the West Midlands area in partnership with the Disability and Carers Service to investigate the possibility of extending the face to face service to working age customers.

The pilot is in its early stages and initial evaluation results are anticipated at the beginning of June 2007.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of Pension Service local team staff were involved in the home visiting service in each of the last four years; and what he expects this proportion to be at 31 March 2008. [133927]

James Purnell: In the last four years, 100 per cent. of Pension Service local service staff were involved in the home visiting service, through face-to-face contact with our customers.

Support is provided to the local service from a centrally based national team.

The proportion of local service staff involved in the home visiting service will not change in 2007-08.

Pension Service: Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed in the Pension Service local teams in each year since 2002. [133906]

James Purnell: No data are available for 2002-03 and 2003-04 as national figures were not maintained for this period.

Information since 2004-05 is in the following table.

	Total number of local service cluster staff (whole-time equivalent)
2004-05	2,515
2005-06	2,532
2006-07	2,317

Pensioners: Overseas Residence

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take action to ensure that people living abroad and eligible for UK pensions receive increases in pensions in line with domestic pensioners; and if he will make a statement. [134633]

James Purnell: We have no plans to change the current arrangements whereby the UK state pension is uprated for UK pensioners living overseas.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information is given to pensioners on their entitlement to benefits upon reaching the age of retirement. [134018]

James Purnell: Information on entitlement to benefits upon reaching state pension age (currently 60 for women and 65 for men) is provided in a number of ways:

A state pension claim pack is sent out to all customers, four months and four days before their state pension age. This includes information on pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Customers who claim their state pension by telephone are now also able to claim any entitlements they may have to pension credit, housing benefit and/or council tax benefit in the same call.

Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 or over (men and women). Over 99 per cent. of the payments are made automatically without the need to claim. Some people who are not in receipt of a benefit administered by DWP need to claim. Each year we send claim forms automatically to everyone who we know from departmental records will be aged 60 by the end of the qualifying week and for whom we have a current address. An extensive publicity campaign begins in July and includes advertisements in both regional and national newspapers.

Pensions: Index Linking

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of what the cost to the Government would have been in each year had pensions been linked to earnings rather than prices since 1997. [132731]

James Purnell: The estimates are in the following table.

	Basic state pension cost (£ billion)
1998	0.1
1999	0.5
2000	1.3
2001	1.6
2002	2.4
2003	2.7
2004	2.8
2005	2.9
2006	3.4
2007	3.8

Note: Figures are net in cash terms, are rounded to the nearest million and include UK and overseas pensions

Source:
DWP modelling.

The earnings link will be restored to the basic state pension. The objective is that this will be done, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, in 2012 but in any event at the latest by the end of the next Parliament.

By 2050 the amount of the basic state pension will roughly double in value compared with current policies.

Remploy: Closures

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what closures of Remploy sites are planned; how many *(a)* employees and *(b)* agency workers there are at each site; and what he expects the costs to be of the closures; [133084]

(2) which aspects of the PricewaterhouseCoopers report on Remploy he plans to implement; [133085]

(3) what deadlines have been set to turn around Remploy sites running at a financial loss; and if he will make a statement. [133104]

Mrs. McGuire: In my statement on 19 July 2006 I said I would be asking the board of Remploy to undertake the preliminary work to bring forward later this year a five-year restructuring plan with proposals both to modernise the business and to support substantially larger numbers of disabled people into work. It is currently working on that plan.

Remploy: Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes there have been to senior management salaries at Remploy since May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [133105]

Mrs. McGuire: As Remploy is a non-departmental public body, the senior management salaries are subject to a pay remit process, which requires that pay increases are within Treasury limits for public sector pay. Remploy pay remits require the approval of the Secretary of State, on behalf of the Treasury. The Remploy senior management pay remit for 2007-08 is currently being considered.

Remploy no longer holds information on senior management salaries prior to April 2002. The agreed senior management pay remit increases since 2002 are in the following table.

Senior management pay remit increases

	Percentage increase
2002-03	2.5
2003-04	2.5
2004-05	2.62
2005-06	3.21
2006-07	3.5

Sick Leave

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of employees returned to work following an absence caused by illness or injury lasting up to *(a)* two weeks, *(b)* one month, *(c)* three months and *(d)* six months in the last period for which figures are available. [132822]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is contained in the following table. It was obtained from the computer systems that managers use to record absences. The figures are for the period 1 January 2006-31 December 2006.

The table shows two sets of figures broken down into length of absence where the employee returned to work during the period. The first shows all recorded sickness absences, while the second shows absences recorded as injury and poisoning. It is not possible to show the number and percentage of employees returning from sickness absences of different durations because some employees have had more than one absence during the period; therefore, the figures show the number of absences in each category.

Absences relating to injury are recorded against a category of 'Injury and Poisoning'. This includes, for example, the toxic effects of alcohol or drugs, any surgical procedures, and road traffic accidents. It is not possible separately to identify cases relating to injuries.

	All sickness absences		*Absences due to injury and poisoning*	
Absence duration	*Number of absences*	*Percentage of total absences*	*Number of absences*	*Percentage of total absences*
Up to two weeks	183,779	90.61	3,185	78.53
Up to one month	7,966	3.93	308	7.59
Up to three months	8,274	4.08	445	10.97
Up to six months	2,229	1.10	84	2.07
Over six months	583	0.29	34	0.84
Total absences	202,831	100.00	4,056	100.00

Winter Fuel Payments: Elderly

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the annual cost of raising the winter fuel allowance for the over-80s by £25 per annum. [132727]

James Purnell: The winter fuel payment has risen from £20 in winter 1997-98 to £200 from winter 2000-01 and to £300 for those aged 80 or over from winter 2003-04. The estimated annual cost of raising the winter fuel payment by £25 for people aged 80 or over in 2007-08 is around £50 million.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of increasing the winter fuel allowance for pensioners aged over 80 years by £25 per year. [135553]

James Purnell *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* The winter fuel payment has risen from £20 in winter 1997-98 to £200 from winter 2000-01 and to £300 for those aged 80 or over from winter 2003-04. The estimated annual cost of raising the winter fuel payment by £25 for people aged 80 or over in 2007-08 is around £50 million.

Winter Fuel Payments: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Tamworth constituency claimed the winter fuel allowance in each year since its introduction. [132738]

James Purnell: Information relating to winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available. The information from winter 1999-2000 is in the following table. Figures for winter 2006-07 are not yet available but we expect the number to be similar to that for 2005-06.

Tamworth constituency

	Payments made
1999-2000	12,520
2000-01	14,480
2001-02	14,850
2002-03	15,230
2003-04	15,710
2004-05	15,940
2005-06	16,460

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent data.

HEALTH

Acute Beds: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute beds per 100,000 population there were in each primary care trust in London in each year since 1997. [132332]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not available. However, information on the number of acute beds per 100,000 population in each former London strategic health authority (SHA) from 2002-03 to 2005-06 is shown in the following table. These SHAs now collectively form NHS London. Information prior to 2002-03 is not available as SHAs did not exist.

Acute beds per 100,000 population, strategic health authorities (SHA) in London, 2002-03 to 2005-06

	Acute beds	Population	Acute beds per 1000,000 population
2002-03			
North West London	3,886	1,806,532	215
North Central London	3,249	1,213,768	268
North East London	3,430	1,527,794	225
South East London	3,174	1,515,226	210
South West London	2,658	1,307,919	203
2003-04			
North West London	3,903	1,814,671	215
North Central London	3,376	1,220,221	277
North East London	3,470	1,530,792	227
South East London	3,164	1,511,793	209
South West London	2,763	1,310,391	211
2004-05			
North West London	4,012	1,834,066	219
North Central London	3,300	1,227,957	269
North East London	3,392	1,531,427	221
South East London	3,102	1,514,122	205
South West London	2,870	1,321,018	217
2005-06			
North West London	3,870	1,871,187	207
North Central London	3,271	1,243,437	263
North East London	3,409	1,542,634	221
South East London	2,941	1,524,646	193
South West London	2,845	1,335,822	213

Notes:
Population data are mid-year resident population estimates based on the 2001 census.
Source:
Department of Health form KH03 and Office for National Statistics

Ambulance Services: Rural Areas

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of experienced ambulance control room staff in saving lives and minimising risks to patients in rural areas. [135185]

Andy Burnham: No assessment has been made of the effectiveness of experienced ambulance control room staff in saving lives and minimising risks to patients in rural areas.

However, national health service ambulance trust control room staff play an important role in ensuring that responses to 999 calls are dispatched promptly, that calls are prioritised accurately and that callers receive the advice and reassurance that they need. For example, call handlers can give callers advice on dealing with childbirth, uncontrolled bleeding or resuscitation while they wait for help to arrive. This advice is routinely provided no matter where the control room or the caller is located.

Asthma

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans she has for the provision of specialist asthma healthcare staff and care plans; [136065]

(2) what studies her Department has undertaken of the variations in rates of admission for asthma attacks across primary care trusts; [136066]

(3) what steps her Department is taking *(a)* to improve preventative provision for asthma and *(b)* to reduce the need for asthma-related emergency admissions. [136074]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The Department published "Supporting People with Long-term Conditions: An NHS and Social Care Model" in January 2005. The purpose of the model is to improve the health and quality of life of people with long-term conditions, including asthma, by providing:

early detection;

good control to minimise the effects of the disease and reduce complications;

more effective medicines management to reduce the number of crises; and

promoting independence by empowering patients allowing them to take control of their lives.

The new general medical services contract was launched in February 2003. The contract includes a specific quality indicator for treatment and care of people with asthma based on:

a register of patients diagnosed with, and prescribed drugs for, asthma;

a record of patients aged 8 years and over where diagnosis confirmed by spirometry or peak flow measurement; and

a record of asthma review within past 15 months.

We are not aware of the Department's having undertaken any studies of the variation in admission rates across primary care trusts.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure they have adequate staff with the skills necessary to meet the health needs of their local population.

Brain Tumours

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been provided by her Department for research into brain tumours in 2006-07. [129877]

Caroline Flint: The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service. The Department's national research programme spend on projects related to brain tumour in 2006-07 is £868,000. This figure includes expenditure in two areas where the focus is on paediatric oncology as a whole. It excludes expenditure from the research and development allocations made annually to NHS providers. That information is not held centrally.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the brain tumour studies being supported by her Department; how much funding has been provided to each study by her Department; and how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults are taking part in these studies. [129878]

Caroline Flint: The information available is shown in the table.

National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) supported brain tumour studies—Adult brain tumour patients

Title	*Research Funder*	*Status*	*Recruitment*
BR12: Temozolomide vs PCV chemotherapy in the treatment of recurrent malignant glioma	Cancer Research UK (CR-UK)/Medical Research Council (MRC)	Recruiting	351
BR 14: A randomised controlled trial of temozolomide as adjuvant and/or concurrent treatment in anaplastic (WHO grade III) glioma	European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)/Schering Plough	In set-up	0
Primary chemotherapy with temozolomide vs. radiotherapy in patients with low grade gliomas with stratification for genetic 1p loss: a phase III study	EORTC/ Schering Plough	In set-up	0
No Radiotherapy versus Whole Brain Radiotherapy for 1 to 3 Brain Metastases from Solid Tumor after Surgical Resection or Radiosurgery. A Randomized Phase III Trial	EORTC	In set-up	0
Phase III Trial comparing Conventional Adjuvant Temozolomide with Dose Intensive Temozolomide in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma	EORTC	In set-up	0
BR11: Adjuvant procarbazine, CCNU and vincristine chemotherapy in patients with highly anaplastic oligodendroglioma	MRC	Closed, in follow-up	368
Multicentre, Phase II Study of Carboplatin pre-irradiation in patients with primary glioblastoma multiforme following biopsy		Closed, in follow-up	25 (closed early)
Childhood brain tumour patients			
Hyperfractionated accelerated radiotherapy (HART) with chemotherapy (cisplatin, CCNU, vincristine) for metastatic (M1-3) Medulloblastoma	CR-UK	Recruiting	18
A Prospective randomised controlled trial of hyperfractionated versus conventionally fractionated radiotherapy in standard risk medulloblastoma	CR-UK	Recruiting	18
Phase II study of the combination of Cisplatin + Temozolomide in malignant glial tumours in children and adolescents at diagnosis or in relapse	CR-UK	Recruiting	15
Cooperative Multicentre Study For Children And Adolescents With Low Grade Glioma	CR-UK	Recruiting	111
Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy of Brain Tumours	CR-UK	Recruiting	48
Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy of Brain Stem Tumours	CR-UK	Recruiting	7
An in depth study over time on the effect of child and parent factors on the perceived quality of life of children treated for a brain tumour	Samantha Dickson Research Trust Brain Tumour UK	Recruiting	47
Phase I Studies of TARCEVA (erlotinib Hydrochloride, OSI-774) as Single Agent in Children with Refractory and Relapsed Malignant Brain Tumours and in Combination with Irradiation in Newly Diagnosed Brain Stem Glioma	CR-UK	Recruiting	0
CNS 1992 04 (Infant Brain Tumours) Use of high-field strength MR derived biomarkers in prostate cancer: Potential for improved cancer staging and prognostication	CR-UK	Closed, in follow-up	213
Study of Paediatric Low Grade Gliomas	CR-UK	Closed, in follow-up	798

National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) supported brain tumour studies—Adult brain tumour patients

Title	Research Funder	Status	Recruitment
Treatment of children with newly diagnosed diffuse pontine gliomas using conventional radiotherapy and high dose tamoxifen	CR-UK	Closed, in follow-up	31
SIOP Intracranial Germ Cell TumoursI	CR-UK	Closed, in follow-up	137
Comparison of Hair regrowth in children with localised PNETs of the posterior fossa (medulloblastoma) treated with surgery followed by radiotherapy or chemotherapy and radiotherapy	CR-UK	Closed, in follow-up	75

The Department's allocation to the NCRN in 2006-07 is £14.5 million. It is not possible to say what part of this support funding is spent on individual projects.

Details of a number of other non-NCRN studies supported from the allocations made by the Department to national health service research active organisations can be found on the National Research Register at

www.dh.gov.uk/research

Care Homes

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* care homes and *(b)* care home beds there were in (i) the Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [134850]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information for the Jarrow constituency is not centrally available.

Table 1 shows the number of care homes open and places available in England, the North East region, and South Tyneside and Gateshead area for adults aged 18 and over, at 31 March for the years 1997 to 2001. Data for 2002 are not available. Data for 2001 are not comparable to 2003 data.

Table 1: Number of care homes[1] open and places available for adults aged 18 and over, at 31 March, 1997 to 2001

	England		North East region		South Tyneside and Gateshead[2]	
	Homes	Places	Homes	Places	Homes	Places
1997	28,800	534,400	1,300	31,700	170	4,100
1998	29,000	553,500	1,400	34,000	190	4,500
1999	28,700	546,200	1,400	33,400	190	4,200
2000	28,300	539,200	1,400	32,800	180	4,200
2001	27,500	528,000	1,400	31,100	190	4,100

[1] Includes residential homes, nursing homes, mental nursing homes and private hospitals/clinics.
[2] Nursing care relates to Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Authority; residential care relates to Gateshead and South Tyneside councils with social services responsibilities. Data for South Tyneside alone was not collected until 2003, with the establishment of the National Care Standards Commission and later the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) to register and inspect social care providers.
Source:
RA and RH(N) returns

Table 2 shows the number of care homes and places registered in England, the North East region and South Tyneside for adults aged 18 and over, at 31 March for the years 2003 to 2007.

Table 2: Number of care homes[1] open and places available for adults aged 18 and over, at 31 March, 2003 to 2007

	England		North East region		South Tyneside	
	Homes	Places	Homes	Places	Homes	Places
2003[2]	20,038	434,637	1,017	25,899	53	1,491
2004	19,502	445,732	1,014	26,405	52	1,519
2005	19,033	440,886	1,003	26,658	54	1,669
2006	18,718	441,335	962	25,690	49	1,561
2007	18,577	441,958	951	25,866	47	1,492

[1] Includes care homes with nursing, adult placement, non-medical and personal care.
[2] Excludes some local authority homes, which were open but not registered.
Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database. Data as at 26 April 2007.

Community Service Volunteers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for delivering funds to the community service volunteers' capital volunteering project which her Department has allocated. [108694]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department was responsible for allocating resource to community services volunteers for the capital volunteering project in line with Treasury approved "invest to save" bid.

Consanguineous Relationships

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many leaflets aimed at members of the public in consanguineous relationships who intend to have children were produced in the latest year for which figures are available; [129405]

(2) what information her Department provides to GPs and other medical professionals on how they should advise patients of the risks associated with consanguineous sexual relationships. [129407]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not produce leaflets for members of the public on this issue, nor does it collect data on leaflets that may be produced by other sources.

A leaflet on genetic risk and consanguineous marriage has recently been produced as part 2 of a collaborative project by the London IDEAS genetic knowledge park and the Genetic Interest Group (GIG, a national alliance of patient organisations) that aims to address the lack of availability of multilingual information on genetic disorders and risk. However, this leaflet is for use by specialised genetics services as an adjunct to genetic counselling. It is currently

available in English, Urdu, Gujarati, Punjabi and Turkish. It is one of a series dealing with genetic disorders and risk.

The Department does not provide guidance for general practitioners or other health professionals on the issue of the risks associated with consanguineous sexual relationships. In general, guidance on issues of practice is a matter for the appropriate professional or regulatory bodies. In addition, local national health service organisations may decide to issue guidance to help practitioners deal with issues which are of particular relevance to their local population.

The Human Genetics Commission supports the need for proper provision of education and information about marriage within a kinship group. This should entail access to counselling and support, preferably in the individual's or couple's preferred language, and a no-blame approach that enables at-risk couples to come forward for testing. Those wanting specific advice on their individual risk should consult a clinical geneticist or genetic counsellor in their local NHS regional genetics centre.

From later this year the curriculum for trainee general practitioners will include learning objectives to equip them to refer patients at risk of genetic conditions appropriately and to appreciate the importance of considering a patient's cultural and religious background and beliefs concerning inheritance in providing care. These have been developed by the Royal College of General Practitioners in partnership with the NHS National Genetics Education and Development Centre, which is funded by the Department.

Dental Services: Manpower

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England are not registered with a dentist. [134848]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available in the form requested. Under the new arrangements for national health service dental services, patients do not need to be formally registered with a practice to receive NHS services.

Information is available on the number of patients who received care or treatment from an NHS dentist in the last 24 months. The most recent information is as at 31 December 2006. The information shows the numbers of patients receiving services in each primary care trust and strategic health authority area and in England as a whole. It could be made available by constituency only at disproportionate cost.

This information is contained in sheet F2, within annex 3, "NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3: 31 December 2006". This report was published by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care, and has been placed in the Library.

The report is also available online at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/dental06q3/Quarterly%20Publication%20Q3%202006-7%20Annex%203.xls

Departments: Consultants

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants and contractors were employed by her Department in each year since 1997; and what the cost was to the public purse. [128042]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect information that would identify the numbers of consultants engaged for the years requested. Contracts do not usually specify the precise numbers of consultants and the numbers can vary during a contract.

Departmental expenditure on external consultancy services is set out as follows:

Financial year	*£000*
1997-98	11,911
1998-99	6,179
1999-2000	8,726
2000-01	6,859
2001-02	7,056
2002-03	7,266
2003-04	10,036
2004-05	12,800
2005-06	[1]6,000
2006-07	[2]6,532

[1] The 2005-06 and 2006-07 spend is lower because the Department rectified some miscoding against the expenditure category codes to provide a more accurate figure of external consultancy spend.
[2] Spend up to end of February 2007.

The Department has only recently started to record contractors on its Human Resources Information System, so figures have only become available during the last year.

The number of contractors working for the Department on 1 January 2007 was 223.

Departments: Press

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reorganisations of her Department's press office have taken place since May 2005. [124952]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: One reorganisation of the Department's press office has taken place since May 2005.

This involved reorganising the teams of press officers to establish a desk dedicated solely to answering incoming calls and queries from the media, separate from specialist desks providing proactive media relations handling for Ministers.

The rationale behind this reorganisation was to provide a faster and more efficient service for the media and Ministers.

Doctors: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* practising and *(b)* former doctors are appointed as advisers to her Department. [126627]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fertility: Stem Cells

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* funded and *(b)* carried out by her Department on the use of bone marrow stem cells to treat male infertility; when her Department last undertook an evidence review on the issue that drew on (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if she will make a statement. [130840]

Caroline Flint: The United Kingdom Government have maintained a consistent policy of support for stem cell research in this country. While the Department has not funded or carried out any research on the use of bone marrow stem cells to treat male fertility or undertaken any type of review of the issue, we are aware of recently published findings for pre-clinical research on this issue and await the results of further trials with interest.

Food Labelling

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many investigations the Food Standards Agency carried out into falsely labelled food in each year since 2006; and what the cost was of the investigations. [136376]

Caroline Flint: Investigations into falsely labelled food are not carried out directly by the Food Standards Agency. The agency has overall policy responsibility for food labelling, but the enforcement of the legislation is undertaken by food enforcement officers who are employed by local authorities.

Health Services: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by *(a)* Barnet Health Authority in 1997-98 and *(b)* Barnet Primary Care Trust in 2005-06 on their drugs and pharmaceutical budget; how much is estimated to be spent in 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [130914]

Caroline Flint: The following table shows the total expenditure on drugs and pharmaceutical services for Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT). Figures have been provided for 1998-99 (which is the earliest year for which the data exists for the individual organisations) and for 2005-06.

£000

	Barnet health authority	*Barnet PCT*	
	1998-99	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Drugs or prescribing costs	10,292	47,061	46,057
Pharmaceutical services	791	97	n/a

Notes:
Information for individual national health service bodies is not available prior to 1998-99. The majority of expenditure on pharmaceutical services was accounted for by the Prescription Pricing Authority and not by commissioners. Therefore this cannot be included in the answer.
Sources:
Audited accounts of Barnet Health Authority 1998-99. Audited summarisation schedules of Barnet PCT 2005-06.

The second table shows the Prescription Pricing Division estimate of final year spending on primary care prescribing in 2006-07 for Barnet PCT. This covers prescriptions issued in England. Prescriptions written in hospitals or clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals and private prescriptions are not included in this figure.

	PCT code	*PCT name*	*Total actual cost (£)*
2005-06	5A9	Barnet PCT	44,684,957
2006-07 (part year April to January)	5A9	Barnet PCT	[1]38,562,545

[1] Part year spend. The Prescription Pricing Division estimate final year spending in primary care prescribing in 2006-07 for 5A9 Barnet is £46,057,219.

Health Research

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to implement the recommendations of the Cooksey report on health research funding; and if she will make a statement. [130979]

Caroline Flint: The Department, together with the Department of Trade and Industry, is taking forward the recommendations of the Cooksey review jointly and with other stakeholders. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has invited Professor John Bell to be the interim chair of the new Office for Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research (OSCHR). The interim oversight group for OSCHR met for the first time in January. In March, OSCHR submitted to the Treasury a single funding bid for health research as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Hospitals: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the capital expenditure on York hospital was in each year since 1992. [136146]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The information requested is shown in the following table.

Capital expenditure by York hospitals national health service trust

	£000
1992-93	5,791
1993-94	6,028
1994-95	7,456
1995-96	8,841
1996-97	2,708
1997-98	1,457
1998-99	3,185
1999-2000	2,778
2000-01	6,571
2001-02	4,159
2002-03	10,232
2003-04	11,247
2004-05	15,493
2005-06	14,769

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules of the York hospitals NHS trust 1992-93 to 2005-06

Human Embryo Experiments: Stem Cells

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what treatments for *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with disabling conditions have been developed since July 2006 arising from (i) human embryo experimentation, (ii) embryonic stem cell research and (iii) non-embryonic stem cell research; and if she will make a statement; [130841]

(2) what progress has been made in curing diseases arising from the results of *(a)* adult stem cell research, *(b)* embryonic stem cell research and *(c)* human embryo experimentation since July 2006; and if she will make a statement. [130842]

Caroline Flint: As indicated by previous replies to the hon. Member's questions on these topics at the end of in 2005 and 2006, it is too early to talk of treatments for disabling conditions. However, research in these areas has started us on the road to a better understanding of conditions such as motor neurone disease, diabetes and cystic fibrosis that will help us to develop effective treatments, with time. Scientific opinion remains that research in these areas will revolutionise the treatment for such conditions in the 21st century.

Insulin

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has approved reductions in the range of insulins supplied in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [128935]

Caroline Flint: We are aware that several insulin presentations will be discontinued from the United Kingdom market during 2007. However, we do not believe that patient care will be compromised as alternative treatment options remain available. All companies need to keep their product portfolios under close review, and may decide to discontinue a product for a number of reasons. The Department has no powers to insist that a company continue to keep a product on the market if it decides not to. Officials are in regular contact with the companies who supply insulins to the UK market and are continuing to monitor the situation.

Kidneys: Transplant Surgery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to reduce waiting times for kidney transplants on the NHS. [135024]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over the last five years, the Department has provided NHS Blood and Transplant dedicated funding—over £4 million in 2006-07—to support a number of specific hospital based initiatives to increase organ donor rates, including 25 living kidney donor schemes. Since 2001-02, there has been a 2 per cent. increase in kidney transplants.

Over 14 million people have registered on the Organ Donor Register (ODR), which represents approximately 23 per cent. of the United Kingdom population. The Department gives around £1 million pounds yearly to NHS Blood and Transplant to run the ODR and to promote transplantation. The Department also provides Section 64 grants to a number of charities.

In addition, an Organ Donation Task Force is currently identifying barriers to organ donation and will report later this year on what further steps could be taken to increase organ donation rates.

Macular Degeneration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are being treated for macular degeneration in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* England, *(c)* Greater London, *(d)* the London Borough of Havering and *(e)* Romford. [135030]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The majority of patients receiving treatment for macular degeneration are likely to be treated as out-patients. We do not hold data showing the number of out-patient attendances for this condition.

The table shows the number of national health service in-patient admissions during 2005-06 for those whose primary diagnosis was degeneration of the macular and posterior pole.

We do not hold data covering the whole of the United Kingdom, nor do we hold data for Romford, which is covered by Havering Primary Care Trust.

	Total patients
England	5,232
Greater London	450
Havering (Primary Care Trust)	14

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's policy is on combating age-related macular degeneration. [135031]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The main risk factors for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) include smoking and poor diet. The White Paper "Choosing Health" sets out the wide range of action being taken to reduce smoking and improve diet and nutrition.

In September 2003, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommended the use of Visudyne in photodynamic therapy for the treatment of wet AMD in some patients. All primary care trusts are funding this treatment in accordance with NICE'S guidance.

NICE began a review of Macugen and Lucentis as a treatment for wet AMD on 1 August 2006. NICE will issue a draft document for public consultation following its first appraisal committee meeting on 18 April.

Maternity Services: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many maternity units there are in the London Borough of Havering. [135025]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are two maternity units in the London borough of Havering—both part of Barking,

Havering and Redbridge Hospitals national health service trust—one at Queen's Hospital in Romford and one at King George Hospital in Ilford.

Midwives: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were *(a)* employed and *(b)* made redundant by each London based NHS trust in each of the last 10 years. [135006]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is shown in the following table. Information on redundancies was collected centrally for the first time in 2006.

National health service hospital and community health services. Registered midwives in each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Midwifery compulsory redundancies in the nine months to 31 December 2006
London Strategic Health Authority	3,370	3,406	3,581	3,399	3,526	3,601	3,981	3,950	4,338	4,307	3
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	248	244	283	284	297	292	0
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	222	206	229	260	247	242	270	243	0
Barts and the London NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	119	150	142	131	115	0
Brent and Harrow Health Authority	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	94	97	89	84	87	88	90	96	109	121	0
Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	48	57	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust	135	120	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	129	149	152	146	142	148	151	121	188	165	0
Croydon Primary Care Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	101	80	92	110	131	65	69	88	91	45	0
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	256	242	210	232	231	220	229	225	0
Forest Healthcare NHS Trust	110	116	117	109	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Guys and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	176	235	189	140	170	176	234	239	286	342	0
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	46	71	150	188	198	172	141	154	214	160	0
Haringey Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Havering Hospitals NHS Trust	141	140	132	147	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	167	132	105	105	106	184	175	157	125	145	0
Hillingdon PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	0

National health service hospital and community health services: Registered midwives in each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	*Midwifery compulsory redundancies in the nine months to 31 December 2006*
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	156	130	121	99	132	159	150	196	196	170	0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	0	0	0
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	151	115	132	120	160	161	198	197	209	210	0
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	156	176	177	165	157	160	162	155	172	179	0
London Strategic Health Authority	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	0
Mayday HealthCare NHS Trust	157	44	200	89	111	98	99	106	102	141	0
Newham Community Health Services NHS Trust	1	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	115	141	157	115	125	119	119	118	146	156	0
North East London SHA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	2	2	2	n/a	0
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	107	111	97	98	104	100	117	127	93	87	0
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	158	174	129	135	137	125	149	116	4
Northwick Park Hospital NHS Trust	98	108	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	99	109	19	52	29	26	178	99	137	157	0
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	159	162	161	151	175	204	161	124	122	109	0
Redbridge Health Care NHS Trust	103	111	99	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Redbridge PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Richmond, Twickenham and Roehampton NHS Trust	2	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	26	25	50	58	51	95	105	72	99	131	0
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	116	119	120	134	138	146	150	148	176	143	2
St. Helier NHS Trust	156	164	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
St. Mary's NHS Trust	81	84	87	74	75	71	87	105	110	135	0
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	53	99	102	111	103	114	127	106	140	143	0
Tower Hamlets Healthcare NHS Trust	127	130	137	121	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0

National health service hospital and community health services: Registered midwives in each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

	Headcount										Midwifery compulsory redundancies in the nine months to 31 December 2006
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]	
Tower Hamlets PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	117	1	1	1	1	1	0
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	20	30	35	52	64	67	85	98	101	134	0
Waltham Forest, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Wellhouse NHS Trust	135	140	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	104	101	88	86	109	67	81	94	123	127	0
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	122	80	156	184	143	145	0
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	112	103	137	136	103	106	94	154	176	159	0

n/a = not applicable.
[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.
Source:
NHS Hospital and Community Health Services Non-Medical Workforce Census.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients self-funded drugs and were required to meet all other costs of treatment in each quarter of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust; and if she will make a statement; [130977]

(2) what representations she has received on her Department's policy on the funding of other costs of treatment which would normally be provided by the NHS for patients choosing to fund the cost of a drug privately; and if she will make a statement. [130978]

Caroline Flint: Information is not collected centrally on the number of patients who self-funded drugs and were required to meet all other costs of treatment.

The Department has received a number of representations from hon. Members and the public on the question of combining privately funded and national health service-funded treatments.

We are committed to maintaining the core principle of NHS treatment being provided free at the point of the delivery, based on clinical need and not ability to pay. This means it is important there is clarity on whether a procedure is publicly or privately funded.

NHS: East Yorkshire

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what each of the job titles is of staff employed at Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals; and how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in each role in each of the last five years. [134426]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been issued to NHS trusts in financial deficit by her Department on media management. [124655]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No guidance on media management relating to financial deficits has been sent to national health service trusts by the Department.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value was of each grant allocated under the capital challenge fund scheme, broken down by NHS trust. [133385]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Under the terms of the capital challenge fund, acute hospital trusts in England were invited to apply for up to £300,000 additional capital finance in 2006-07, to help combat healthcare associated infections. The table showing the allocations from the capital challenge fund and the amounts received has been placed in the Library.

A small number of trusts did not benefit from the full allocation because of an overriding pre-existing agreement with the trust covering all capital finance in

2006-07, and in these cases the amount received (column 2) was less than the allocation from the capital challenge fund.

Ritalin

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England were prescribed methylphenidate drugs in each year between 1997 and 2006. [130761]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not hold data on the number of patients prescribed methylphenidate hydrochloride drugs. The table shows the number of prescription items dispensed in the community in England.

	Number of prescription items dispensed (thousand)
1997-98	102.2
1998-99	134.2
1999-2000	168.0
2000-01	189.6
2001-02	214.6
2002-03	271.3
2003-04	329.3
2004-05	362.1
2005-06	403.5

Source: Prescription cost analysis (PCA) system

Smoking

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence plans to publish its public health programme guidance on smoking cessation. [130415]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence expects to publish its public health programme guidance on smoking cessation in November 2007.

Testicular Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking *(a)* to increase public awareness of the signs and symptoms of testicular cancer and *(b)* to promote early diagnosis. [132166]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Testicular cancer is almost always curable if found early. The disease responds well to treatment even if it has spread to other parts of the body. More than nine out of 10 patients are cured.

Men should be aware of any unusual changes and consult doctors early in order to ensure the maximum chance of a cure. That is why we have collaborated with Cancer Research UK in the production of a leaflet to promote the public awareness of testicular cancer, 'Testicular Cancer: Spot The Symptoms Early'. Around 250,000 copies of the leaflet were produced in 2006-07, distributed through Cancer Research UK helplines, at events and in Cancer Research UK shops. The leaflet has been placed in the Library and can be viewed at:

info.cancerresearchuk.org/images/publicationspdfs/leaflet_testicular.pdf

Wheelchair Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that those provided with wheelchair services prior to March 2005 can be issued with replacement wheelchairs to at least the same specification when their criteria remain unchanged and do not meet the revised criteria set out in version 005 of the health care standards for wheelchair services under the NHS published in March 2005; and if she will make a statement. [114636]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The needs of those requiring wheelchair services will continue to be assessed individually on the basis of clinical need and locally determined eligibility criteria. The document 'Health Care Standards for Wheelchair Services under the NHS' was not a document published or endorsed by the Department but was produced by the wheelchair managers forum, which includes representation from the British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine, empower, the National Forum of Wheelchair User Groups the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, the Posture and Mobility group and Whizz-Kidz. The document was issued as guidance and is not mandatory.

TREASURY

Departments: Computers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136105]

John Healey: All Treasury staff are instructed to shut down their computers overnight, through internal guidance and IT induction courses, as part of the Department's sustainable development strategy to minimise energy use.

Departments: Silverfish TV

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has met representatives from Silverfish TV in the last three years. [133444]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments his Department made to Silverfish TV in each year since 1997; and what the purpose was of each. [133445]

John Healey: HM Treasury has awarded no contracts to Silverfish TV since April 2003. Information relating to earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Hospitals

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many official visits to NHS hospitals he has made since May 2005; and which hospital was visited in each case. [135867]

John Healey: The Chancellor and Treasury Ministers have made a number of visits across the United Kingdom since May 2005, including visits to NHS hospitals. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, I can confirm the Chancellor most recently visited Birmingham Heartlands Hospital on 27 April 2007.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of families in Copeland who will be affected by changes made to the inheritance tax allowance. [135492]

Ed Balls: The information which would be needed to produce estimates at local levels is not available.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has estimated the costs to *(a)* the Department of Health and its executive agencies and *(b)* the NHS of the proposed changes in the Finance Bill 2007 for tackling the risk posed to the Exchequer of the operational practices of managed service companies. [135757]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 863W.

Office for National Statistics

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the Office for National Statistics (ONS) chooses people for interview in the course of compiling its statistics; what obligation there is on such people to respond; what guidance the ONS gives to such people; and if he will make a statement. [135806]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated May 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how the Office for National Statistics (ONS) chooses people for interview in the course of compiling its statistics; what obligation there is on such people to respond; what guidance the ONS gives to such people. I am replying in her absence. (135806)

The ONS interviews people as part of its Social Survey Programme. Addresses are selected at random from the Royal Mail's Postcode Address list. Residents at those addresses are then interviewed. Participation in the survey is voluntary.

All households selected for interview receive an early warning letter from the Office. This letter explains the purpose of the survey, the selection procedures and encourages participation. It also describes on whose behalf the survey is being conducted. In some cases a small reward (in the form of a gift voucher) is offered on completion. The letter also provides details of the interviewers and offers an inquiry line for questions.

When interviewers call at the address they provide interviewees with a leaflet which covers many of the points referred to above, in more detail. This leaflet also explains to respondents that data obtained in the interview are confidential and are used for statistical purposes only. When asked whether the interviews are mandatory, interviewers are trained to explain that they are conducted on a voluntary basis. I am placing a copy of a sample of the leaflet and introductory letter in the House of Commons Library.

ONS also interviews people at airports for the International Passenger Survey, where people are again selected randomly at the Departures and Arrivals areas of ports and airports. In addition ONS does sometimes interview people via telephone to follow up social survey interviews first conducted face-to-face, as described above.

Official Cars

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2006 by the Minister of State, Department for Transport, *Official Report*, column 1068W, on official cars, how many times his Department has granted permission to a special adviser to use an official car in the last 12 months. [136310]

John Healey: All travel by Ministers is conducted in line with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers. All travel by civil servants, including special advisers, is conducted in line with the Civil Service Management Code.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many children in Copeland he expects to be helped out of living in poverty as a result of the changes announced in the 2007 Budget; [135495]

(2) what percentage of the additional expenditure on tax credits announced in the 2007 Budget is expected to be claimed by families in Copeland; [135498]

(3) how many families in Copeland will receive the increase in the child element of the child tax credit announced in the 2007 Budget. [135499]

Mr. Timms: HMRC statistics[1] show that, at 3 April 2007, approximately 7,400 children in 4,100 families in Copeland were receiving above the family element of child tax credit and would benefit from increasing the child element by £150 per year above earnings indexation. In addition to this, increasing the child element above earnings indexation will mean that some families in Copeland currently receiving only the family element of child tax credit will also receive some of the child element. It is however, not possible to prevent poverty statistics below the regional level.

Nationally, as a result of the package of measures announced in Budget 2007:

households with children will be, on average, £200 a year better off;

households with children in the bottom fifth of the income distribution will be on average, on average, £350 a year better off; and

200,000 children will be lifted out of poverty.

It is not known what percentage of the additional expenditure on tax credits announced in the 2007 Budget is expected to be claimed by families in Copeland, as we do not break down expenditure to constituency level.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/ctc-wtc-geog-apr07.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Publicity

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on online website advertising services as part of the "Tax doesn't have to be taxing" campaign since its launch. [133322]

John Healey: Since the launch in 1999, £2,522,459 has been spent on online website advertising services as part of the "Tax doesn't have to be taxing" campaign.

The latest tracking research has shown that the proportion of people claiming to have started online filing has continued to increase.

In 2007, 2.9 million filed online, 35.1 per cent. of total returns against a target of 35 per cent.

Smith Institute: Publications

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Smith Institute publications his Department has purchased since 1997. [136325]

John Healey: The Treasury has no records of purchasing Smith Institute publications.

Taxation: Agriculture

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will amend the definition of assets which qualify for agricultural buildings allowances to clarify what constitutes a fixture. [135751]

John Healey: The Government announced a package of business tax reforms in the Budget. This included the withdrawal of agricultural buildings allowances and the introduction of a new category of fixtures integral to a building that will be included in the 10 per cent. capital allowances pool, effective from 2008. The Government will be consulting this summer on the definition of this new classification of integral fixtures.

Taxation: Car Sharing

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees benefited from the tax and national insurance contributions concession on exceptional events in car sharing schemes in 2005-06 and 2006-07; and what the value was of the IR176 relief in those years. [135727]

Ed Balls: This information is not available as there is no requirement for employers to report details of exempt benefits to HMRC.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was owed in outstanding fines for the late return of self-assessment tax forms at the end of each of the last nine financial years. [133326]

John Healey: The information requested is not available for each of the last nine years. The self-assessment penalties outstanding at the end of HM Revenue and Customs accounting years, both in monetary amounts and in percentage terms against the cumulative penalties raised, are set out in the table. HMRC accounting years run to the end of October.

	SA penalties outstanding (£ million)	*Outstanding as a percentage of charges raised*
1998	54.81	47.08
1999	92.37	36.99
2000	112.95	28.37
2001	127.24	23.30
2002	136.26	19.76
2003	131.79	15.68
2004	134.45	13.28
2005	145.52	12.02

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1025W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), on the Valuation Office Agency, what proportion of the 2.2 million photographs were of domestic properties. [127107]

John Healey: Of the 2.2 million photographs, 1.28 million (58 per cent.) were of domestic properties. The 1.28 million photographs related to some 823,000 separate addresses.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people are unable to claim tax credits solely because of their age; [132935]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of lowering the age at which able-bodied people without children can claim tax credits from 25 to 18 years. [132936]

John Healey: Tax credits are not available to families only consisting of adults aged under 25 without children or a disability. There is no upper age limit. If the age at which these families become eligible for tax credits was lowered from 25 to 18 years around 500,000 additional families, mainly single adults, would be eligible to claim and receive tax credits at an estimated cost to the exchequer of £325 million.

These estimates do not include the effects of the disregard which may increase the number of eligible families and estimated cost.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption: China

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many applications his Department is processing by UK citizens to adopt children from China through the China Center of Adoption Affairs; what the date is of the oldest

application; how many of the applications have been made according to *(a)* the requirements which are soon to be superseded and *(b)* the new requirements; and if he will make a statement. [134181]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department is currently processing 50 applications by British citizens to adopt children from China. They are at various stages of processing between acknowledgement and sending the application to the China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA) and are being processed under the new requirements which came into force on 1 May 2007.

Of the above applications, the oldest standard application was received on 20 October 2006. One complex application, received on 16 June 2006, is also being processed by the Department.

The Department will continue to have a processing role for applications already with the CCAA until an adoption order is made. There is no central record of the number of applications already processed (and with the CCAA) under the old and new requirements.

Apprentices: Assessments

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the NVQ component of apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships is tested entirely by written examination; what the length is of that examination; and what proportion of the examination contains multiple choice questions. [132953]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: The NVQ component of apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships assessing competence in the workplace is rarely tested by written examination, though this method could be appropriate to some sectors where competence and knowledge elements of the framework are integrated. The NVQ component is normally assessed by apprentices accumulating a portfolio of evidence of practical achievements. Assessment methods vary between sectors and are determined for apprenticeship frameworks by the appropriate Sector Skills Councils, Sector Bodies and employers in collaboration with the QCA.

Asperger's Syndrome

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had on the provision of specialist education for children with Asperger's syndrome; and what steps his Department is taking to improve such provision. [136116]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State met Ivan Corea of the Autism Awareness Campaign UK earlier this year and the Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education responded on behalf of the Government to a Westminster Hall debate on 7 March 2007, proposed by Mr Corea's MP, the Member for Ilford North, on educational provision for autistic children. Ministers and the Department have ongoing discussions with The National Autistic Society and others on improving educational provision for all children with autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs).

The inclusion development programme, part of the Department's special educational needs (SEN) strategy, is designed to help schools with practical resources and to deliver cascaded training through local authority advisers and school SEN co-ordinators. ASDs will be in the second wave of the programme and will encompass the schools' autism pack which the Department is developing through its Autism Working Group.

Children's Centres

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue his Department has spent in each London local authority on (i) Sure Start and (ii) children's centres since their inception. [128458]

Beverley Hughes: The information available for spend on Sure Start Local Programmes and children's centres for the period 1999-2000 to 2005-06 in London local authorities is shown in the following table:

	SSLP		*Children's centres*	
Local authority	*Revenue spend*	*Capital spend*	*Revenue spend*	*Capital spend*
Brent	9,432,746	3,802,502	967,594	2,551,717
Camden	15,388,525	4,676,434	308,072	816,644
Enfield	7,056,269	596,588	922,092	1,619,194
Hackney	19,583,092	4,254,948	1,350,658	1,150,066
Haringey	14,581,579	5,265,454	704,120	2,234,381
Newham	21,129,500	4,255,006	789,367	2,617,406
Tower Hamlets	18,299,717	3,024,082	597,515	614,267
Waltham Forest	9,827,119	3,638,114	1,242,574	2,989,125
Greenwich	12,718,642	3,443,016	1,473,027	2,288,470
Lambeth	16,452,545	3,758,929	1,940,570	2,113,716
Southwark	22,623,179	6,757,939	1,722,915	4,159,930
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	1,264,610	1,659,918
Croydon	3,619,626	1,069,687	192,838	395,074
Ealing	5,926,123	2,083,672	688,909	598,240
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,178,042	2,085,116	370,384	300,000
Hounslow	3,553,715	1,074,186	341,534	478,627

	SSLP		Children's centres	
Local authority	*Revenue spend*	*Capital spend*	*Revenue spend*	*Capital spend*
Islington	16,018,141	4,711,548	948,816	2,215,578
Kensington and Chelsea	5,069,010	1,776,721	281,970	652,388
Lewisham	13,458,688	2,812,999	950,048	1,851,929
Redbridge	3,292,748	1,135,002	331,309	173,978
Wandsworth	5,997,550	2,132,627	219,108	300,000
Westminster	8,283,229	2,429,315	367,744	1,029,000
Bromley	2,703,525	1,075,000	290,746	21,061
Havering	3,403,631	272,123	208,357	111,936
Hillingdon	3,033,094	1,177,577	140,794	134,716
Bexley	2,623,925	869,859	335,340	788,022
Merton	1,825,782	1,004,667	217,696	0
Barnet	1,483,713	800,000	249,134	150,000
Sutton	2,013,707	111,000	200,750	498,047
City of London	0	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	0
Harrow	0	0	0	0
Total	254,577,162	70,094,111	19,625,590	34,513,430

Notes:
1. Source is audit returns from the local authority and the individual SSLP's where available.
2. Where audits are outstanding we have estimated expenditure based on unaudited expenditure figures.
3. Where both audited and unaudited expenditure figures are unavailable we have included an estimate based on average spend rates.
4. There is not sufficient available data to include 2006-07 until later in the year when local authorities make their audited expenditure returns.
5. In 2005-06 Hammersmith and Fulham and Greenwich received funding for children's centres through a local area agreement.

City Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the local authorities which have expressed an interest in sponsoring an academy; and what progress has been made with each expression of interest. [133038]

Jim Knight: Sunderland city council, Manchester city council, Kent county council, Coventry city council and the Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea have all signed a formal Expression of Interest as a part sponsor of one or more academy projects. In each case the council proposed to become part-sponsor but with the non-state sponsor appointing a majority of the governors and taking responsibility for the governance of the academy, as is required under the academies programme even when a local authority is part sponsor. It is not permitted that the local authority appoint more than two governors or play the leading role in the academy governance.

Once a formal Expression of Interest has been signed and approved by Ministers there are two further stages in the development of an academy before it opens—a "feasibility stage" during which the project team prepares detailed plans, including an educational vision and model, and formally consults with the local community; and an "implementation stage" during which detailed plans for school improvement are developed by all the stakeholders, and any necessary building work is carried out. Sunderland city council's interest is in three academies, all of which have entered their feasibility stage. Manchester city council has signed an Expression of Interest for a total of seven academies, all of which have entered their feasibility stage. Kent county council has an interest in five projects, of which one is already open and four have entered feasibility. The Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea has signed an Expression of Interest for one academy, which is in its implementation stage. All of the academies have non-state co-sponsors.

Classroom Assistants: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teaching assistants are employed within *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London borough of Havering and *(c)* Romford, broken down by examining body. [134544]

Jim Knight: Information for teaching assistants employed in maintained schools is not available by examining body.

In January 2006 the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools and pupil referral units in the London Government office region was 22,820, of which 660 were in the London borough of Havering and 190 in Romford constituency. This is the latest information available at constituency, local authority and Government office level.

Provisional teaching assistant numbers for 2007 at the national level were published on 26 April.

Community Champions Fund

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will extend the Community Champions Fund beyond 31 March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [132153]

Mr. Dhanda: The purpose of the comprehensive spending review settlement for this Department for 2008-11 is to deliver key priorities for children, young people and

learners. Decisions to be taken over the coming months will permit more detailed announcements to be made in due course about the allocation of resources. The option of continuing to fund Community Champions will need to be considered alongside programmes that more directly impact on outcomes for children and young people.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the expenditure by his Department on buying, operating and supporting *(a)* all commercial software products and *(b)* software products produced by Microsoft was in each of the last three years. [112596]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table gives details of internal running costs expenditure for the initial purchase of *(a)* commercial software products and *(b)* Microsoft products. All of the totals are inclusive of VAT. The columns have been sorted by financial year.

£

FY	Commercial software products	Microsoft products
2003-04	2,040,522	575,567
2004-05	1,779,864	422,765
2005-06	1,709,154	318,589
2006-07 to date	1,471,881	362,947

The following table gives details of the costs incurred to maintain and licence software. Unfortunately it is not possible to separate between Microsoft products and non Microsoft products as the information is not readily available. Again all totals are inclusive of VAT.

FY	£
2003-04	733,673
2004-05	731,056
2005-06	892,500
2006-07 to date	858,845

We are unable to provide any expenditure information which covers operating and supporting either commercial software products or Microsoft software products as this is not identifiable from other costs held in our records.

Other expenditure incurred purchasing software from programme budgets is not readily available within Department for Education and Skills. To respond fully would involve an extensive internal information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by his Department with outside suppliers in the last five years. [135609]

Mr. Dhanda: The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Education and Skills. To respond fully would involve an extensive internal information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which Ministers in his Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135552]

Mr. Dhanda: This Government publishes an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

No Department for Education and Skills' Minister has visited India in the last 12 months.

Departments: Market Research

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* opinion polls and *(b)* focus groups in each of the last five years. [133024]

Mr. Dhanda: We do not classify our research expenditure in this way, so we cannot break it down by these categories. To gather the information in such a way would incur disproportionate costs.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people took sick leave for stress in his Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135474]

Mr. Dhanda: One hundred and twenty seven (127) people took sick leave for stress in my Department during the 12 months ending March 2007; this represents 3.5 per cent. of the total staff number.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department spent on overseas travel in each year since 1997. [134542]

Mr. Dhanda: The figures in the following table are taken from the Department's financial systems for the years in question and cover overseas travel by both Ministers and civil servants. All such travel is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers" and the "Civil Service Management Code", as appropriate. Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library of

the House. Information for the financial year 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 86WS. Information for the financial year 2006-07 is in the process of being collated and will be published shortly.

Expenditure on overseas visits

	£000
1997-98	663
1998-99	773
1999-00	789
2000-01	832
2001-02	506
2002-03	243
2003-04	218
2004-05	180
2005-06	251
2006-07 (provisional)	324

These figures reflect the Department as constituted at the time the accounts for each year were produced and so are not adjusted for Machinery of Government changes.

Diplomas for England

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to liaise with employers on Diplomas for England; and what role is played by employers in the programme's practical portfolio. [134540]

Jim Knight: We are working with national and local employers on both the design of Diplomas and their implementation at a local level. 5,000 employers have been involved in the design of the first five Diploma lines including major corporations such as BT, BSkyB and Sainsbury through Diploma Development Partnerships (DDPs). A large number of employers are also currently involved in the development of the second five Diploma lines and we expect even more will get involved in the development of the final four.

The DDPs also have an important role in engaging both large corporations and local employers in the direct delivery of Diplomas. To this end the DDPs will be running nine regional events in May for local consortia who were successful in the recent Diploma Gateway process and will be offering the first Diplomas in 2008.

Our key partner bodies in education business links, the local Education Business Partnerships, Trident, and others also have a role to play. Between them they have links to at least 300,000 businesses already working with schools and colleges. They are engaging with DDPs, Sector Skills Councils, and local Diploma delivery consortia to help local employers to support Diploma students with work experience placements and other essential work-related input. If Diplomas are genuinely to provide the kind of knowledge, skills and attitudes that employers value, we need them to get involved in supporting all aspects of teaching and learning. The nature of this will depend on each employer's capacity and might include providing support materials; sponsoring projects; mentoring young people or simply giving talks on relevant topics. Bill Rammell recently announced improvements that we are making to the existing infrastructure for supporting work-related learning.

In addition, the Secretary of State has appointed Sir Alan Jones as the Diploma Champion for Employers. Employer to employer promotion of the expected value to business is key in ensuring that we get a high level of employer engagement and active involvement in Diplomas. Sir Alan Jones is already attending a number of events which will enable him to talk to a large number of employers. On 5 June the Secretary of State and Sir Richard Lambert will also host a joint CBI/DfES breakfast event for CEOs focusing on the Diplomas.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department has taken to tackle fraud on the payment of education maintenance allowances to older children; how many staff have been involved; how many fraudulent claims were established; how many prosecutions have been made; and how much has been recovered in each of the last five years. [135931]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* After extensive piloting, the education maintenance allowance was rolled out nationally from September 2004. In taking the decision to roll out the scheme, the Department ensured there were robust arrangements in place to minimise the risk of fraud.

Responsibility for operating the education maintenance allowance, and maintaining and implementing a strategy for managing the risk of fraud, transferred to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on 1 April 2005. The LSC have provided a response to these questions as follows:

The EMA national scheme has been operating in its current form since September 2004 and is currently being paid to over 500,000 learners aged 16 to 19.

All aspects of EMA fraud are proactively managed by a compliance manager, drawing upon support from a number of colleagues and external experts as and when required.

The following table provides details on the number of fraudulent claims established and the amount of money recovered for the three years of the national scheme.

	Number of fraudulent claims established	*Amount recovered (£)*
200405	0	0
2005-06	15	1,120
2006-07 (to date)	9	540

Due to the relatively small sums involved no prosecutions have been made to date.

Education Maintenance Allowance: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands have claimed the education maintenance allowance since its introduction. [132730]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the DfES and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 25 April 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked;

"How many pupils in (a) Tamworth constituency, (b) Staffordshire and (c) the West Midlands have claimed the education maintenance allowance since its introduction."

In the first year of national roll out EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas (young people who are 19 are entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances). In 2005/06 EMA roll out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA is available to all 16, 17 and 18 year olds nationally.

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The attached table shows EMA take-up data for Staffordshire Local Authority area and the West Midlands during each academic year since the introduction of the scheme.

Take-up of EMA in each academic year

	2004/05	*2005/06*	*2006/07 to end March*
Staffordshire	1,137	2,033	7,726
West Midlands	41,125	53,274	62,549

I hope this information is useful and addresses your question.

Education: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reason the Cambridgeshire Standards Fund Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant was reduced by 30 per cent. in 2004. [134303]

Jim Knight: Changes to the distribution of the Ethnic Minority Achievement (EMAG) element of the Standards Fund were introduced in 2004-05 to bring a better targeted, fairer and more sensible distribution to this grant. These changes were widely endorsed by the DfES "Aiming High: Raising the Achievement of Minority Ethnic Pupils" consultation of 2003.

The redistribution of funding resulted in a small number of local authorities, including Cambridgeshire, receiving less funding than they did under the previous system under which allocations did not properly reflect the number of minority ethnic children in the local authority. However, losses in any one year were limited to 0.05 per cent. of each authority's overall school funding.

Education: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the pilot of Activity Agreement Allowances. [128268]

Phil Hope: The Activity Agreement pilots began in April 2006 in eight areas of England. They were originally planned to run to the end of March 2008. In his Budget Report in March, the Chancellor announced an extension of the pilots into the 2007 CSR period.

A comprehensive evaluation project is running alongside the pilots to examine and assess the effectiveness of the pilot activity and to understand how young people respond to the initiative.

The evaluation will report to the DFES in December 2008.

Employer Training Pilots

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007 to question 131374, on employer train pilots, how many employees had enrolled in Train to Gain programmes by the end of February 2007 in companies where the employer had *(a)* fewer than 250, *(b)* between 250 and 1,000 and *(c)* between 1,000 and 5,000 employees. [133453]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: Train to Gain is an ongoing service and as such performance is updated on a regular basis. Detailed operational information is not held centrally by the Department but is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom the LSC Chief Executive has written to the hon. Member, and a copy of his reply will has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 8 May 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent parliamentary question about how many employees had enrolled in the Train to Gain programmes by the end of February 2007 in companies where the employer has (a) fewer than 250, (b) between 250 and 1,000 and (c) between 1,000 and 5,000 employees?

At the end of February 2007, the LSC had this information for 13,362 of the 18,530 employers with learners at that time. The details you requested are shown below for these employers.

Company size	*Number of companies*	*Employees enrolled as learners*
(a) below 250	11,184	49,216
(b) 250-1,000	1,196	11,627
(c) 1,000-5,000	982	6,664

I hope this response is helpful to you.

Faith Schools: Admissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list those faith schools in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England which do not give priority to children of their faith. [133715]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Families: Eating Habits

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will include in guidance to schools guidance on encouraging families to eat at home at night round the table; [135977]

(2) whether he plans to take steps to reduce the number of children spending money on unhealthy snacks in between meals. [135978]

Mr. Dhanda: We have no plans to issue guidance to schools on encouraging families to eat at home at night round the table. Arrangements for eating outside of school are rightly matters for individual families to decide. However, our school food programme is designed to help children to recognise the benefits of healthy eating, not only at school but also at home. This includes ensuring that all secondary school pupils will have an entitlement to learn to cook from 2008. This will ensure that they have the necessary skills to enable them to reproduce that healthy food at home.

New school food standards to be introduced in September 2007, cover both food served at lunchtime and at other times of the school day, building on the interim standards introduced in September 2006. The new school food standards will restrict snacks provided in schools to nuts, seeds, fruit or vegetables with no added salt sugar or fat. This will ensure that the food available to children throughout the day in school is healthy and nutritionally balanced. Recognising the benefits of healthy eating should also help to discourage pupils from buying unhealthy snacks on the way to and from school.

First Aid: Education

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what principles underpin first-aid education delivered in schools; and if he will make a statement. [134632]

Jim Knight: The Department's 'Safefy Education: Guidance for schools DfES/0161/2002' provides information on how the framework for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) can address the issue of accidental injury arid death in children and young people. The framework includes teaching young people at primary school level about school rules relating to health and safety issues, and at secondary school level to develop skills to cope with emergencies, including first aid and resuscitation techniques. Beyond this, the guidance also highlights how other parts of the national curriculum can be used to develop children's ability to recognise hazards and respond appropriately to risky situations.

The Department encourages schools to develop strategies that are effective at a local level in raising the profile of safety education and dealing with medical emergencies, working with suitable partners where appropriate to do so. We are aware of the valuable support that organisations such as the British Red Cross offer individual schools or groups of schools at a local level to enrich curriculum work in this area.

Free School Meals

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the impact of the changes made in 2001 to how pupils are found eligible for free school meals on take-up of free school meals. [131589]

Mr. Dhanda: In 2001 pupils whose parents received income support (IS), income based jobseekers allowance (IBJSA) or support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 were entitled to receive free school lunches. Children who received IS or IBJSA in their own right were also entitled to free school lunches.

In April 2003 an additional free school meal eligibility criterion was introduced, predominantly to protect pupils who prior to 6 April 2003 were entitled to receive a free school lunch but, who after that date would otherwise have lost that entitlement as a result of the changes to the tax-credit and welfare system. The additional criterion allowed pupils whose parents who were in receipt of child tax credit, without additional working tax credit, and an income as assessed by HMRC that did not exceed £13,230, (2003/04 tax year) (currently 2007/08 £14,495) to receive free school meals.

Also from April 2003 legislation requires:

a claim for a free school lunch, by or on behalf of a pupil, to be made before they could be considered for a free school meal; and

children who receive education suitable for a child under compulsory school (who would otherwise be eligible to receive a free school meal) to satisfy an additional requirement of receiving that education both before and after the lunch period before being eligible to receive a FSM.

A final change was made in April 2003 that extended free school meal eligibility to pupils whose parents receive the guarantee elemcnt of state pension credit.

Figures for maintained schools in England show, with the exception of 2004, that since 1997 there has been a continuous downward trend in the number of children known to be eligible to receive free school meals. The 2004 figures reflect the additional families that were brought into entitlement as a result of the changes to eligibility criteria in 2003. Figures show a similar, although lesser percentage, downward trend in the number of pupils that take-up their entitlement.

Further Education

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of 16 to 18 year-olds who were previously not in education, employment or training *(a)* began a course in (i) a further education college, (ii) a sixth form college, (iii) a school sixth form, and (iv) a work-based learning provider and *(b)* were no longer included under the definition because they reached their 19th birthday in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [135322]

Jim Knight: The following tabie shows the number of young people aged 16 to 18 previously not in education, employment or training who began *(a)* education or *(b)* work based learning in each of the last three years as a proportion of the average number of young people not in education, employment or training during each of these years.

Percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds previously not in education, employment or training who began a course 2003-04 to 2005-06

	Education	*Work based learning*
2003-04	16	34
2004-05	20	34
2005-06	22	36

Source: Connexions Service

The proportion of young people beginning education cannot be broken down by the type of education establishment. Information on the proportion of young people who are no longer included under the definition because they reached their 19th birthday is not collected as Connexions may continue to work with them after this date. Young people beginning more than one course will be recorded on each occasion.

It is estimated that 220,000 (11 per cent.) 16 to 18-year-olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET) at the end of 2005. Not all of these young people are out of work—the figures include young people taking a break from study, caring for families, or simply between jobs or courses. Annual surveys carried out on a group of young people at ages 16, 17 and 18 found that nearly 20 per cent. were NEET at one of the three survey dates, while only around 1 per cent. were NEET at each of the three survey points.

Record numbers of 16-year-olds are in full-time education. But, we recognise the need to take action to reduce the proportion of young people not in any form of education, employment or training, and have set ourselves a very challenging target to get the proportion down to 8 per cent. by 2010.

Our 14 to 19 reforms are vital: the implementation plan makes commitment to make and offer of learning to every young person after they complete year 11. They also give us the platform for agencies working with young people to plan and develop learning and employment opportunities that meet local needs.

To keep them in learning, need to help them tackle the other issues in their lives that might cause them to leave which we are doing through our every child matters reforms.

Further Education: Student Wastage

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what analysis has been carried out to ascertain the main reasons why students in further education in each of the regions dropped out of their courses in each of the last three years. [132184]

Bill Rammell: The Department has commissioned research to ascertain the main reasons why students drop out of their further education courses. The report, 'Reasons for Early Leaving from Further Education and Work-based Learning Courses', assesses the reasons for course drop-out and identifies policy mechanisms that might reduce non-completion. The report does not include analysis at a regional level.

This research is due to be published at the end of June 2007. It will be available from the Department's research website

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) undertake a regular national learner satisfaction survey (NLSS) involving learners studying on a range of programmes in further education, work-based learning and adult and community learning. This survey provides an overview of delivery and satisfaction with education and training in England among learners aged 16 and over. The survey also analyses reasons for early leaving.

In 2004-05 the most common reasons for early leaving were, being on the wrong course (15 per cent.) and health reasons (13 per cent.) Other key reasons related to tutor, assessment and quality of teaching issues (12 per cent.) 10 per cent. left to commence employment.

The findings can be found in the publication, located http://research.lsc.gov.uk/LSC+Research/published/learner-satisfaction/ and by looking at the further education report.

Each LSC region will conduct analysis and commission research to understand issues and concerns specific to them. Analysis of learner data and characteristics are undertaken as part of each region's strategic analysis activity to inform planning and commissioning decisions.

GCSEs: Standards

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training have *(a)* five or more GCSEs at grade A-C, *(b)* between one and four GCSEs at grade A-C, *(c)* five or more GCSEs at grade D-G, *(d)* one to four GCSEs at grade D-G and *(e)* no GCSEs. [135321]

Jim Knight: The following table gives estimates of the proportion of 16,17 and 18 year olds not in education, employment or training at the requested levels of GCSE attainment by the end of year 11. These are survey based estimates and have been obtained from the Youth Cohort Study, tracking the same cohort of young people. There is no available estimate at a single point in time for the combined 16-18 group.

Table 1: Proportion of 16, 17 and 18 year olds not in education, employment or training by GCSE[1] results in year 11

Percentage

	Population at age 16	*NEET age 16 in 2004*	*NEET age 17 in 2005*	*NEET age 18 in 2006*
5+ A* to C grades	54	12	12	35
1 to 4 A* to C grades	23	26	29	25
5+ D to G grades	16	31	31	24
1 to 4 D to G grades	3	11	9	7
No GCSEs	4	20	19	9

[1] Includes equivalent GNVQ qualifications achieved in year 11

Giles Brook Primary School: Repairs and Maintenance

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been spent on Giles Brook Primary School, Milton Keynes in *(a)* original building costs, *(b)* repairs and making good building defects and *(c)* provision of temporary classrooms. [136265]

Jim Knight: This information is held locally. Much of the Department's capital resources are allocated to local authorities and schools by needs-related formulae, so that priorities for investment can be decided locally and in accordance with locally prepared asset management plans.

Guardianship

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children live outside care and in households with adult friends or family members who are not their birth parents. [134895]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Head Lice

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance his Department gives schools regarding the prevention and treatment of head lice; and if he will make a statement. [133041]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has produced a leaflet containing guidance on the prevention and treatment of head lice, which includes the option of using lotions as well as combing. The leaflet is widely available from locations that include schools and general practioners' surgeries and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/63/47/04116347.pdf

A copy of the leaflet has been placed in the Library.

Maintained Schools: Qualifications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in maintained schools did not turn up for a GCSE exam for which they had been entered in 2006. [132182]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold the information required to answer the question.

Mental Health

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures he is taking to promote actively the employment within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public sector bodies for whom he has responsibility of people with mental illnesses in line with the advice and codes of practice produced by the Disability Rights Commission. [117081]

Mr. Dhanda: Under the Disability Equality Duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Department and the public sector bodies for which I am responsible are required to publish and implement a Disability Equality Scheme. These are plans setting out how we will carry out the Disability Equality Duty, monitor and report on progress. In particular this includes our arrangements for gathering information on the effect of our policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of our disabled employees, including those with mental health conditions, and making use of that information.

The Department, and the public sector bodies for which I am responsible, also have duties under the employment provisions in Part 2 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 not to discriminate against, and to make reasonable adjustments for, disabled job applicants and employees. The arrangements are set out in the Department's Disability Equality Scheme which is a matter of public record.

In addition, specifically on mental health, the Department will be launching a stress policy, and are working closely with 'Action on Stigma', the Department of Health led initiative to promote and sustain employment for people with mental illness.

The public sector bodies sponsored by the Department that are subject to these requirements are responsible for publishing and implementing their own Disability Equality Schemes.

Action the Department is taking includes; an internal guide which describes how individuals and managers can manage and support mental health issues in the workplace, including sources of support for new joiners and existing employees; a stress policy based on the HSE Stress Management Standards; a 24/7 Employee Assistance provider who will provide telephone advice or 1:1 counselling; health fairs where material on mental health issues supplied by our local primary care trusts was distributed; and no pre-screening for health prior to recruitment or appointment with a guarantee that a person's health status does not form part of the selection process.

New Schools

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1288W, on new schools, if he will provide a breakdown of the number of schools completed in each year by *(a)* region and *(b)* London borough. [132585]

Jim Knight: The information given in the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1288W was partial. The Department is currently collecting details from all authorities of buildings investment in schools, including new schools built from all sources of funding. This information will be made available later this summer. I will ensure that copies are placed in the House Library, and that the hon. Member is informed when this happens.

Nursery Schools: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland are in free nursery education. [134769]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the table.

Number of part-time funded places[1,2] filled by three and four year olds, January 2006

	3 year olds			4 year olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[4]	*Total 3 year olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[5]	*Maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[6]	*Total 4 year olds*
North East Region	19,300	5,300	24,700	24,500	1,700	26,200
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland Parliamentary Constituency area	890	30	910	990	20	1,000

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[4] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.
[5] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools' Census.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 32/2006 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2006 (final)" in August, which is available on my Department's website www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Primary Education: Teachers

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1545W, on primary education teachers, whether he has taken steps to encourage schools to employ more men as primary school teachers; how much has been spent advertising jobs in publications likely to reach a predominantly male audience; whether he has encouraged schools to put in place targets for the recruitment of male teachers; whether specific training courses are offered only to male teachers; whether any advice has been given to schools of their right to advertise jobs under Section 47(1a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975; and if he will make a statement on the present number of male primary school teachers. [135532]

Jim Knight: DfES and TDA-Training and Development Agency for Schools-are working together to develop a programme of action to increase the number of men working in primary schools.

The TDA has a range of actions specifically designed to encourage men to train to be primary teachers, in particular, three day TDA funded primary teaching 'taster courses' specifically for men. TDA advertises in national newspapers rather than male-themed publications because those have been more effective in attracting potential high quality teachers. TDA advertise for able, committed and high-quality trainees, regardless of gender.

Neither TDA nor schools have targets for the recruitment of male trainees or staff. Employers must recruit the best candidate for the job. Training providers are expected to recruit the best quality candidates. The TDA aim is to improve annually on the existing 14 per cent. of male trainees accepted onto primary ITT courses. TDA does not offer teacher training courses specifically to males.

Schools are free to advertise their vacancies where they wish. No advice has been given to schools on Section 47 (1a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The latest provisional figure available for the number of male teachers in primary schools in 2005 was 26,700.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many exclusions from maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there were in each year since 1997, broken down by reason for the exclusion. [126525]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in tables which have been placed in the Library.

Only two years of data relating to the reason for exclusion are currently available. The first year for which information on the reason for exclusion is available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. Exclusions data for 2004/05 academic year were published in June 2006.

Pupil Exclusions: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were excluded from schools in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* each school in the London borough of Sutton in each of the last five years. [132649]

Jim Knight: The information requested is in the following tables.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools: number and percentage of permanent exclusions[1, 2, 3] 2000/01 to 2004/05

	2000/01							
	Primary schools		*Secondary schools*		*Special schools*		*Total*[5]	
	Number	*Percentage*[4]	*Number*	*Percentage*[4]	*Number*	*Percentage*[4]	*Number*	*Percentage*[4]
London	200	1.0	1,200	9.9	50	12.2	1,450	4.4
Inner London	80	0.5	430	4.5	20	6.0	540	2.0
Camden	10	0.1	22	0.2	•	•	30	0.1

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools: number and percentage of permanent exclusions[1, 2] 2000/01 to 2004/05

2000/01

	Primary schools		Secondary schools		Special schools		Total[3]	
	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]
City of London	0	0.0	0	–	0	–	0	0.0
Hackney	9	0.0	21	0.3	4	1.1	30	0.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	7	0.1	33	0.5	0	0.0	40	0.2
Haringey	*	*	28	0.2	0	0.0	30	0.1
Islington	0	0.0	19	0.3	0	0.0	20	0.1
Kensington and Chelsea	3	0.0	13	0.4	*	*	20	0.2
Lambeth	11	0.1	24	0.3	6	0.9	40	0.1
Lewisham	12	0.1	70	0.6	*	*	80	0.2
Newham	8	0.0	28	0.2	0	0.0	40	0.1
Southwark	15	0.1	45	0.4	3	0.6	60	0.2
Tower Hamlets	*	*	43	0.3	*	*	50	0.1
Wandsworth	3	0.0	58	0.6	5	0.7	70	0.2
Westminster	*	*	27	0.3	0	0.0	30	0.2
Outer London	120	0.5	770	5.3	30	6.2	910	2.4
Barking and Dagenham	9	0.0	10	0.1	0	0.0	20	0.1
Barnet	4	0.0	50	0.2	*	*	60	0.1
Bexley	16	0.1	57	0.3	6	1.5	80	0.2
Brent	5	0.0	41	0.3	3	0.7	50	0.1
Bromley	8	0.0	53	0.2	0	0.0	60	0.1
Croydon	15	0.0	101	0.6	*	*	120	0.2
Ealing	4	0.0	29	0.2	0	0.0	30	0.1
Enfield	5	0.0	66	0.3	*	*	70	0.1
Greenwich	10	0.0	28	0.2	*	*	40	0.1
Harrow	10	0.1	58	0.7	0	0.0	70	0.2
Havering	*	*	30	0.2	0	0.0	30	0.1
Hillingdon	15	0.1	46	0.3	4	0.6	70	0.2
Hounslow	3	0.0	41	0.3	4	1.0	50	0.1
Kingston upon Thames	*	*	7	0.1	0	0.0	10	0.0
Merton	4	0.0	27	0.3	*	*	30	0.1
Redbridge	3	0.0	22	0.1	3	0.7	30	0.1
Richmond upon Thames	*	*	30	0.4	0	0.0	30	0.2
Sutton	*	*	23	0.2	0	0.0	20	0.1
Waltham Forest	0	0.0	47	0.4	*	*	50	0.1

2001/02

	Primary schools		Secondary schools		Special schools		Total[3]	
	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]
London	210	0.0	1,200	0.3	60	0.5	1,460	0.1
Inner London	80	0.0	390	0.3	20	0.5	490	0.1
Camden	*	*	24	0.2	*	*	30	0.1
City of London	0	0.0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hackney	9	0.0	21	0.3	3	0.8	30	0.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	*	*	34	0.5	*	*	40	0.2
Haringey	5	0.0	27	0.2	0	0.0	30	0.1
Islington	0	0.0	12	0.2	0	0.0	10	0.1
Kensington and Chelsea	3	0.0	9	0.3	*	*	10	0.1
Lambeth	9	0.0	29	0.4	0	0.0	40	0.1
Lewisham	13	0.1	51	0.4	*	*	70	0.2
Newham	12	0.0	37	0.2	*	*	50	0.1
Southwark	14	0.1	31	0.3	5	1.0	50	0.1
Tower Hamlets	*	0.0	36	0.3	*	*	40	0.1

2001/02

	Primary schools		Secondary schools		Special schools		Total[1]	
	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
Wandsworth	9	0.1	49	0.5	7	1.0	70	0.2
Westminster	•	•	26	0.3	0	0.0	30	0.1
Outer London	130	0.0	810	0.3	30	0.4	970	0.1
Barking and Dagenham	10	0.1	14	0.1	0	0.0	20	0.1
Barnet	3	0.0	51	0.2	0	0.0	50	0.1
Bexley	11	0.0	45	0.3	4	1.0	60	0.1
Brent	3	0.0	34	0.2	•	•	40	0.1
Bromley	6	0.0	79	0.4	0	0.0	90	0.2
Croydon	25	0.1	110	0.6	10	1.8	150	0.3
Ealing	4	0.0	59	0.4	•	•	60	0.1
Enfield	6	0.0	64	0.3	•	•	70	0.1
Greenwich	18	0.1	31	0.2	•	•	50	0.1
Harrow	5	0.0	63	0.7	0	0.0	70	0.2
Havering	•	•	42	0.3	•	•	50	0.1
Hillingdon	8	0.0	35	0.2	0	0.0	40	0.1
Hounslow	7	0.0	50	0.3	•	•	60	0.2
Kingston upon Thames	•	•	•	•	0	0.0	0	0.0
Merton	3	0.0	18	0.2	•	•	20	0.1
Redbridge	•	•	30	0.2	0	0.0	30	0.1
Richmond upon Thames	3	0.0	25	0.3	3	2.0	30	0.2
Sutton	•	•	34	0.2	0	0.0	40	0.1
Waltham Forest	7	0.0	24	0.2	4	0.6	40	0.1

2002/03

	Primary schools		Secondary schools		Special schools		Total[1]	
	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
London	180	0.0	1,260	0.3	40	0.4	1,470	0.1
Inner London	60	0.0	390	0.3	20	0.4	470	0.1
Camden	8	0.1	22	0.2	•	•	30	0.2
City of London	0	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0.0
Hackney	6	0.0	20	0.3	•	•	30	0.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0.0	32	0.4	0	0.0	30	0.2
Haringey	•	•	29	0.3	0	0.0	30	0.1
Islington	•	•	17	0.2	0	0.0	20	0.1
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0.0	15	0.4	•	•	20	0.2
Lambeth	9	0.0	22	0.3	•	•	30	0.1
Lewisham	8	0.0	34	0.3	•	•	40	0.1
Newham	7	0.0	57	0.3	0	0.0	60	0.1
Southwark	11	0.0	32	0.3	4	0.8	50	0.1
Tower Hamlets	•	•	42	0.3	0	0.0	40	0.1
Wandsworth	•	•	36	0.4	4	0.6	40	0.2
Westminster	5	0.0	30	0.4	0	0.0	40	0.2
Outer London	120	0.0	870	0.3	30	0.3	1,010	0.1
Barking and Dagenham	4	0.0	26	0.2	0	0.0	30	0.1
Barnet	5	0.0	42	0.2	•	•	50	0.1
Bexley	14	0.1	56	0.3	•	•	70	0.2
Brent	4	0.0	50	0.3	0	0.0	50	0.1
Bromley	11	0.0	66	0.3	•	•	80	0.2
Croydon	20	0.1	99	0.5	5	0.9	120	0.3
Ealing	5	0.0	51	0.3	0	0.0	60	0.1

2002/03

	Primary schools		Secondary schools		Special schools		Total[1]	
	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
Enfield	6	0.0	47	0.2	*	*	60	0.1
Greenwich	7	0.0	39	0.3	0	0.0	50	0.1
Harrow	12	0.1	56	0.6	0	0.0	70	0.2
Havering	*	*	32	0.2	0	0.0	40	0.1
Hillingdon	7	0.0	41	0.2	*	*	50	0.1
Hounslow	4	0.0	71	0.4	*	*	80	0.2
Kingston upon Thames	*	*	4	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.0
Merton	0	0.0	35	0.4	4	1.6	40	0.2
Redbridge	6	0.0	59	0.3	0	0.0	70	0.2
Richmond upon Thames	*	*	47	0.6	0	0.0	50	0.3
Sutton	0	0.0	14	0.1	0	0.0	10	0.0
Waltham Forest	4	0.0	32	0.2	*	*	40	0.1

2003/04

	Primary schools		Secondary schools		Special schools		Total[1]	
	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
London	200	0.0	1,340	0.3	50	0.4	1,590	0.2
Inner London	80	0.0	390	0.3	20	0.5	490	0.3
Camden	7	0.1	15	0.2	*	*	20	0.1
City of London	0	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0.0
Hackney	12	0.1	26	0.4	*	*	40	0.2
Hammersmith and Fulham	*	*	13	0.2	0	0.0	10	0.1
Haringey	*	*	20	0.2	0	0.0	20	0.1
Islington	*	*	14	0.2	0	0.0	20	0.1
Kensington and Chelsea	*	*	15	0.4	0	0.0	20	0.2
Lambeth	15	0.1	10	0.1	0	0.0	30	0.1
Lewisham	8	0.0	34	0.3	*	*	40	0.1
Newham	10	0.0	71	0.4	0	0.0	80	0.2
Southwark	9	0.0	47	0.5	10	2.1	70	0.2
Tower Hamlets	*	*	43	0.3	0	0.0	50	0.1
Wandsworth	0	0.0	46	0.5	6	0.8	50	0.2
Westminster	7	0.1	40	0.5	0	0.0	50	0.2
Outer London	120	0.0	950	0.3	30	0.3	1,090	0.2
Barking and Dagenham	12	0.1	37	0.3	0	0.0	50	0.2
Barnet	*	*	42	0.2		*	40	0.1
Bexley	8	0.0	51	0.3		*	60	0.2
Brent	7	0.0	61	0.4		*	70	0.2
Bromley	7	0.0	87	0.4		*	100	0.2
Croydon	15	0.1	88	0.5		*	110	0.2
Ealing	*	*	48	0.3		*	50	0.1
Enfield	*	*	80	0.4		0.0	80	0.2
Greenwich	19	0.1	69	0.5		*	90	0.3
Harrow	8	0.0	58	0.6		*	70	0.2
Havering	*	*	35	0.2	0	0.0	40	0.1
Hillingdon	10	0.0	61	0.3	*	*	70	0.2
Hounslow	7	0.0	76	0.5	5	1.2	90	0.2
Kingston upon Thames	0	0.0	9	0.1	0	0.0	10	0.0
Merton	0	0.0	20	0.2	0	0.0	20	0.1
Redbridge	4	0.0	53	0.3	*	*	60	0.1

2003/04

	Primary schools		Secondary schools		Special schools		Total[5]	
	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]
Richmond upon Thames	*	*	30	0.4	0	0.0	30	0.2
Sutton	*	*	20	0.1	*	*	20	0.1
Waltham Forest	8	0.0	24	0.2	*	*	40	0.1

2004/05

	Primary schools		Secondary schools		Special schools		Total[5]	
	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]
London	140	0.0	1,340	0.3	40	0.3	1,510	0.1
Inner London	70	0.0	340	0.3	20	0.4	420	0.1
Camden	6	0.1	8	0.1	0	0.0	10	0.1
City of London	*	*	0	n/a	0	n/a	—	—
Hackney	6	0.0	17	0.2	5	1.3	30	0.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0.0	15	0.2	0	0.0	20	0.1
Haringey	0	0.0	28	0.2	0	0.0	30	0.1
Islington	*	*	7	0.1	0	0.0	10	0.0
Kensington and Chelsea	*	*	15	0.4	0	0.0	20	0.2
Lambeth	19	0.1	20	0.3	*	*	40	0.2
Lewisham	*	*	22	0.2	0	0.0	20	0.1
Newham	16	0.1	66	0.4	*	*	80	0.2
Southward	6	0.0	28	0.3	*	*	40	0.1
Tower Hamlets	0	0.0	41	0.3	0	0.0	40	0.1
Wandsworth	*	*	45	0.4	6	0.8	50	0.2
Westminster	4	0.0	30	0.4	0	0.0	30	0.2
Outer London	80	0.0	990	0.3	20	0.3	1,090	0.2
Barking and Dagenham	3	0.0	42	0.3	0	0.0	50	0.2
Barnet	*	*	56	0.3	0	0.0	60	0.1
Bexley	13	0.1	46	0.3	*	*	60	0.2
Brent	6	0.0	79	0.5	0	0.0	90	0.2
Bromley	4	0.0	52	0.2	0	0.0	60	0.1
Croydon	3	0.0	96	0.5	3	0.5	100	0.2
Ealing	5	0.0	74	0.5	0	0.0	80	0.2
Enfield	*	*	61	0.3	0	0.0	60	0.1
Greenwich	15	0.1	91	0.6	4	1.0	110	0.3
Harrow	*	*	49	0.5	0	0.0	50	0.2
Havering	3	0.0	37	0.2	0	0.0	40	0.1
Hillingdon	*	*	54	0.3	*	*	60	0.1
Hounslow	6	0.0	69	0.4	*	*	80	0.2
Kingston upon Thames	0	0.0	6	0.1	0	0.0	10	0.0
Merton	*	*	32	0.4	0	0.0	30	0.1
Redbridge	*	*	57	0.3	*	*	60	0.1
Richmond upon Thames	0	0.0	22	0.3	0	0.0	20	0.1
Sutton	*	*	23	0.1	*	*	30	0.1
Waltham Forest	9	0.0	46	0.3	5	0.8	60	0.2

* = Less than three, or a rate based on less than three.
— = Less than five, or a rate based on less than five.
n/a = Not applicable (no schools of this type).
[1] Figures are as confirmed by local authorities via the data checking exercise.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[4] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) pupils in primary, secondary and special schools, excluding dually registered pupils in special schools in January 2005.
[5] Totals across all school types have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools: number of permanent exclusions (as reported by schools—see quality note)—2000/01 to 2004/05

Sutton local authority area

		2000/01			2001/02		
URN	*Establishment name*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of excluded school population*	*Reliability indicator—see quality note*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of excluded school population*	*Reliability indicator—see quality note*
102962	Cheam Common Junior School	—	—	—	—	—	—
102967	Abbey Primary School	•	•	Marginal	•	•	Significant
102998	Carshalton Boys Sports College	3	0.3	Marginal	•	•	Marginal
102999	Carshalton High School for Girls	•	•	Marginal	3	0.3	Significant
103000	Greenshaw High School	—	—	—	3	0.2	Significant
103002	Glenthorne High School	•	•	Marginal	10	1.0	Marginal
103003	Stanley Park High School	7	0.7	Marginal	10	1.1	Marginal
131104	Overton Grange School	•	•	Marginal	•	•	Marginal
103007	Wilson's School	—	—	—	•	•	Significant
103009	The John Fisher School	4	0.4	Marginal	—	—	—
103010	Cheam High School	4	0.3	Marginal	[redacted]	•	Marginal
103011	Sutton Grammar School for Boys	—	—	—	—	—	—
103025	Sherwood Park School	—	—	—	—	—	—
103026	Wandle Valley School	—	—	—	—	—	—

Sutton local authority area

		2002/03			2003/04		
URN	*Establishment name*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of excluded school population*	*Reliability indicator—see quality note*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of excluded school population*	*Reliability indicator—see quality note*
102962	Cheam Common Junior School	—	—	—	—	—	—
102967	Abbey Primary School	—	—	—	—	—	—
102998	Carshalton Boys Sports College	•	0.1	Marginal	•	•	Marginal
102999	Carshalton High School for Girls	—	—	—	—	—	—
103000	Greenshaw High School	—	—	—	•	•	Marginal
103002	Glenthorne High School	5	0.5	Marginal	8	0.7	Marginal
103003	Stanley Park High School	6	0.6	Marginal	4	0.4	Marginal
131104	Overton Grange School	•	0.2	Marginal	—	—	—
103007	Wilson's School	—	—	—	—	—	—
103009	The John Fisher School	—	—	—	•	•	Marginal
103010	Cheam High School	•	0.1	Marginal	—	—	—
103011	Sutton Grammar School for Boys	—	—	—	•	•	Marginal
103025	Sherwood Park School	—	—	—	—	—	—
103026	Wandle Valley School	—	—	—	•	•	Marginal

Sutton local authority area

URN	Establishment name	2004/05 Number of permanent exclusions	2004/05 Percentage of excluded school population	Reliability indicator—see quality note
102962	Cheam Common Junior School	•	•	Marginal
102967	Abbey Primary School	—	—	—
102998	Carshalton Boys Sports College	4	0.4	ok
102999	Carshalton High School for Girls	—	—	—
103000	Greenshaw High School	•	•	ok
103002	Glenthorne High School	6	0.5	ok
103003	Stanley Park High School	7	0.8	ok
131104	Overton Grange School	•	•	ok
103007	Wilson's School	•	•	ok
103009	The John Fisher School	—	—	—
103010	Cheam High School	—	—	—
103011	Sutton Grammar School for Boys	•	•	ok
103025	Sherwood Park School	•	•	ok
103026	Wandle Valley School	—	—	—

— = No exclusions.
• = One or two exclusions or a rate based on one or two exclusions.
Notes:
1. Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.
2. The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils on the school roll (excluding dually registered pupils) as at January 2005.
3. In 2000/01,2001/02,2002/03 the numbers of permanent exclusions collected from schools via the Annual Schools' Census (ASC) were known to have been under-reported and so have to be treated with some caution. As a result, a checking exercise was carried out—but this was at LEA level only. School level exclusion numbers or percentages shown here for 2000/01 are as reported In ASC. The reliability Indicator has been derived as follows:
Where number of exclusions returned via ASC, aggregated to LEA level <30:
If the confirmed number increased or decreased by more than five >>"SIGNIFICANT" change.
If the confirmed number increased or decreased by five or less >>"MARGINAL" change.
Confirmed number matches ASC number >>"ok".
Where number of exclusions returned via ASC, aggregated to LEA level>=30:
If the confirmed number increased or decreased by more than 15 per cent. >>"SIGNIFICANT" change.
If the confirmed number increased or decreased by 15 per cent. or less >>"MARGINAL" change.
Confirmed number matches ASC number >>"ok".
4. In 2003/04,2004/05 the numbers of permanent exclusions collected from schools via the Annual Schools' Census (ASC) were known to have been under-reported and so have to be treated with some caution. As a result, a checking exercise was carried out—but this was at LEA level only. School level exclusion numbers or percentages shown here for 2000/01 are as reported in ASC. The reliability indicator has been derived as follows:
For each school type within an LA:
If the confirmed numbers increased or decreased by more than 10 >>"HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT" change.
If the confirmed number increased or decreased by more than five >>"SIGNIFICANT" change.
If the confirmed number increased or decreased by five or less >>"MARGINAL" change.
Confirmed number matches ASC number >>"ok".
5. This quality check is based upon LA level returns and so can only provide a broad indication of the reliability of individual schools' figures.

Pupil Exclusions: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in *(a)* Hampshire, *(b)* Southampton and *(c)* Portsmouth were temporarily excluded for (i) drug and alcohol related problems, (ii) sexual misconduct, (iii) pupil abuse and (iv) adult abuse in each of the last four years. [133026]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion 2003/04 and 2004/05—Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton local authority areas

	Physical assault		Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour				
	Against a pupil	Against an adult	Against a pupil	Against an adult	Sexual misconduct	Drug and alcohol related	Total
2003/04							
Hampshire	2,161	471	475	2,720	134	401	6,362
Portsmouth	807	184	173	1,012	22	53	2,251
Southampton	168	49	23	263	7	29	539
2004/05							
Hampshire	2,468	449	525	3,236	127	468	7,273

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2] Number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion 2003/04 and 2004/05—Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton local authority areas

	Physical assault		Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour				
	Against a pupil	Against an adult	Against a pupil	Against an adult	Sexual misconduct	Drug and alcohol related	Total
Portsmouth	717	209	136	847	27	72	2,008
Southampton	592	159	100	791	11	46	1,699

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey

Only two years of data relating to the reason for exclusion are currently available. The first year for which information on the reason for exclusion is available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. Exclusions data for 2004/05 academic year were published in June 2006.

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were in pupil referral units in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* gender, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* age of pupil. [132577]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the tables.

Pupil referral units Number of pupils by ethnic group[1,2,3] 1997-2006 position in January each year England

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
White	6,550	6,560	6,970	5,900	6,130	6,330	7,450	8,510
Black Caribbean	400	470	480	380	420	440	500	590
Black African	110	120	110	90	100	110	150	150
Black Other	240	190	240	220	210	240	280	280
Indian	30	40	40	30	20	30	40	40
Pakistani	80	60	90	80	60	70	80	120
Bangladeshi	10	50	40	50	60	50	60	90
Chinese	[4]	10	10	10	[4]	10	10	10
Other	110	180	190	90	190	220	310	270
Classified	7,530	7,670	8,160	6,850	7,190	7,500	8,880	10,060
Unclassified [4]	[4]	70	110	1,630	2,100	2,450	3,130	2,980
Total pupils [5]	7,530	7,740	8,260	8,480	9,290	9,960	12,010	13,040

Source:
School Census

	2005	2006
White	8,840	9,490
White British	8,530	9,170
Irish	40	60
Traveller of Irish Heritage	80	60
Gypsy/Roma	50	70
Any Other White Background	140	140
Mixed	570	710
White and Black Caribbean	360	400
White and Black African	50	70
White and Asian	40	50
Any Other Mixed Background	130	190
Asian	380	340
Indian	60	50
Pakistani	130	110
Bangladeshi	130	90
Any Other Asian Background	60	80
Black	890	840
Caribbean	500	460
African	270	270
Any Other Black Background	110	110
Chinese	10	10
Any Other Ethnic Group	120	130

	2005	2006
Classified	10,810	11,520
Unclassified [4]	3,660	3,720
Total Pupils [5]	14,470	15,240

[1] Includes solely registered pupils and those with other providers.
[2] Pupils of compulsory school age and above are classified according to ethnic group.
[3] The categories for recording ethnicity data in Pupil Referral Units changed in 2005 to reflect the categories used in the 2001 National population census. There is no direct mapping between this set of codes and those used in previous years which will result in some discontinuity in time series data.
[4] Information was not sought or refused
[5] All pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[6] Less than 5 pupils
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between totals and the sum of component parts.
Source:
School Census

Pupil referral units: Number of pupils by gender [1] 1997-2006 Position in January each year England

	Number of boys	Number of girls	Total pupils
1997	5,580	1,960	7,530
1998	5,650	2,090	7,740
1999	6,180	2,090	8,260
2000	6,370	2,110	8,480
2001	7,000	2,290	9,290
2002	7,420	2,540	9,960
2003	8,970	3,040	12,010
2004	9,830	3,200	13,040
2005	10,780	3,690	14,470
2006	11,280	3,960	15,240

[1] Includes solely registered pupils and those with other providers.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between totals and the sum of component parts.
Source:
School Census

Pupil referral units: Number (headcount) of pupils by age [1,2] 1997-2006 Position in January each year England

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Pupils aged:										
2 and under	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[3]	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[3]	[3]
5	50	40	30	20	50	10	40	30	30	30
6	50	40	50	40	40	30	70	50	40	40
7	60	50	60	40	80	50	70	90	60	60
8	100	90	70	60	130	90	140	130	130	100
9	120	100	110	90	140	130	210	190	170	180
10	130	150	150	130	210	180	280	260	250	360
11	150	150	210	150	210	280	280	250	230	410
12	420	450	470	530	550	590	780	840	890	810
13	830	840	980	930	1,090	1,210	1,520	1,630	1,860	1,960
14	1,680	1,640	1,830	1,990	2,170	2,430	2,800	3,220	3,650	3,870
15	3,860	3,840	4,150	4,240	4,520	4,790	5,680	6,050	6,910	7,080
16	90	360	140	240	90	130	130	230	160	230
17	10	[3]	10	20	10	20	20	40	60	80
18	0	0	0	10	10	20	20	20	30	40
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total all ages	7,530	7,740	8,260	8,480	9,290	9,960	12,010	13,040	14,470	15,240

[1] Includes solely registered pupils and those with other providers
[2] Age as at previous 31 August
[3] less than 5 pupils
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between totals and the sum of component parts.
Source:
School Census

Pupil Referral Units: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils registered at pupil referral units had *(a)* statemented and *(b)* unstatemented special educational needs as a result of (i) autistic spectrum disorder, (ii) emotional, behavioural and social

difficulties, (iii) hearing impairment, (iv) moderate learning difficulty, (v) multi-sensory impairment, (vi) physical disability, (vii) profound and multiple learning difficulty, (viii) severe learning difficulty, (xix) specific learning difficulty, (x) speech, language and communication needs, (xi) visual impairment and (xii) other or unknown causes in each year since 1997. [133855]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils with speech, language and communication needs *(a)* with statements and *(b)* without statements were registered in pupil referral units at some point during each year from 1997 to 2006, broken down by local authority. [133862]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Intimidation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance he plans to provide to schools on the avoidance of the bullying of children with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [135787]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* As part of the Department's suite of guidance on prejudice-driven bullying, we recently announced that we would be producing dedicated guidance on tackling bullying related to special educational needs and disabilities. We have begun to meet with interested lobby groups and experts and hope to start work on this guidance later in the year. We intend to work closely with the Special Educational Consortium and other charities and groups with an interest in this area, drawing on current research.

In addition, the Department's general guidance on bullying, "Don't Suffer In Silence", advises schools to refer to the bullying of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities in their anti-bullying policies and suggests some strategies for addressing this type of bullying.

Pupils: Languages

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what funding his Department makes available to support schools with increasing numbers of bilingual learners; [134304]

(2) what funding has been made available for *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* individual schools in Cambridgeshire to deal with increasing numbers of bilingual learners. [134305]

Jim Knight: The Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) is a ring-fenced grant which provides additional support for underachieving ethnic minority pupils and for pupils for whom English is an Additional Language. The total grant for 2007-08 is £179 million. Cambridgeshire will receive £104,811.

Approximately £435 million of the £24.6 billion Schools Formula Spending Share (SPSS) for 2005-06 was distributed on the basis of numbers of children for whom English is an Additional Language, and from low performing ethnic minority groups.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which replaced SPSS for 2006-07, gives local authorities allocations for multi year periods: the allocations for 2007-08 will depend on pupil numbers in schools in January 2007 and the guaranteed unit of funding for each authority set in December 2005 is influenced by the number of its children for whom English is an Additional language.

The Dedicated Schools Grant is supplied to local authorities in support of the Schools Budget. It is for the local authorities—in conjunction with their Schools Forum—to fund the schools they maintain from their Schools Budget. The Dedicated Schools Grant Guaranteed Unit of Funding for Cambridgeshire in 2007-08 is £3,622.90.

We will set indicative allocations for a three year period for 2008-09 to 2010-11, following the current consultation as part of the new school funding arrangements for 2008-09, which will be finalised when we have the pupil numbers for each year. The possibility of an Exceptional Circumstances Grant to deal with additional pressures which may fall on local authorities after we set out three year allocations is under consideration as part of our consultations.

The Government are working in partnership with local areas to spread best practice in meeting specific pressures that have arisen as a result of recent migration. In addition, we have set aside £400,000 over a two year period to fund a New Arrivals Excellence Programme to build capacity in local authorities to support schools with limited experience of teaching new arrivals with little knowledge of English.

School Disability Equality Schemes

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary schools have published their disability equality schemes in accordance with the deadline of 4 December 2006. [116826]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not collected centrally. However, to support schools in meeting this new responsibility, in June 2006 the Department for Education and Skills published a training resource for schools and local authorities: 'Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act in schools and early years settings'. The materials in this resource will help schools meet their duties under the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the total public spending in England on school meals in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* real terms for each year from 1979-80 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [124968]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect data that allows us to report expenditure on school meals alone.

However, the Government are providing additional funding of almost £500 million between 2005 and 2011 to support the improvement of school food. This includes, between April 2005 and March 2008, £90 million for authority maintained schools (including nursery schools and pupil referral units) and £130 million for local authorities.

School Meals: Poultry

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will estimate the percentage of poultry supplied to British schools which had been produced by UK farms in each of the last three years. [126631]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not held centrally. However, the DfES is actively supporting the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) that includes objectives for increasing tendering opportunities for small and local producers and for promoting food produced to higher standards of production, which should help provide a more level playing field for domestic producers. The Department has also included the PSFPI in the remit of the School Food Trust.

School Meals: Standards

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, Official *Report*, columns 346-47W, on school meals, whether changes were made to the School Meal Review Panel's recommendation on the standard covering deep-fried food contained in the Education (Nutritional Standards for School Lunches) Regulations 2006. [135899]

Mr. Dhanda: The School Meals Review Panel recommended that 'meals should not contain more than two deep-fried products in a single week'. To ensure clarity and to maximise the impact of this standard, Ministers decided that the interpretation of 'deep-fried' in this context should include those products that were deep-fried in the manufacturing process.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much he plans to allocate *(a)* to produce the revised guide to standards for school lunches and *(b)* to implement its provisions. [135976]

Mr. Dhanda: The School Food Trust has spent just under £54,700 of its grant in aid on the production of the revised guidance on the standards for school lunches. The costs of school lunches that meet the standards are met through a combination of expenditure by local authorities, schools, parents and carers. However, this Government are investing almost £500 million between 2005 and 2011 in transitional funding to support local authorities and schools in an ambitious six-year programme to transform school food.

Schools: Twinning

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools and colleges in *(a)* England and *(b)* Great Yarmouth are twinned with another school; and if he will take steps to increase this figure. [135174]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

Schools: Accommodation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many temporary school buildings were in use in each London borough in each year since 1997. [136260]

Jim Knight: Data supplied to the Department by local authorities in 2001, 2003 and 2005 show the following numbers of temporary buildings at maintained schools in each London borough:

	2001	*2003*	*2005*
Barking and Dagenham	5	9	19
Barnet	72	153	99
Bexley	190	174	44
Brent	84	70	70
Bromley	28	28	24
Croydon	126	116	110
Ealing	20	119	70
Enfield	—	—	65
Greenwich	—	—	22
Hackney	29	10	19
Haringey	[redacted]	30	7
Harrow	144	146	150
Havering	—	2	22
Hillingdon	95	90	9
Hounslow	44	53	98
Islington	2	11	8
Kensington and Chelsea	3	3	3
Kingston upon Thames	—	—	2
Lambeth	41	41	41
Lewisham	31	32	25
Merton	—	4	5
Newham	90	89	72
Redbridge	—	—	14
Richmond upon Thames	—	16	35
Southwark	9	11	11
Sutton	99	104	84
Tower Hamlets	17	12	15
Waltham Forest	—	19	19
Wandsworth	22	22	29
Westminster	4	—	2

These data are of thought to be of variable quality and completeness. Data are not held by my Department for other years since 1997.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made

year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the replacement of decayed temporary accommodation, on which we have set a high priority. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to replace temporary buildings where they are considered to be unsuitable.

Modern, high-quality mobile or demountable buildings provide a good environment for teaching and learning where there is short-term need. They might, for instance, be needed to cope with a short-term increase in pupil numbers, or where extensive remodelling or rebuilding of permanent accommodation means providing temporary accommodation on the school site, rather than transporting children elsewhere.

Schools: Bexley

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1293W, to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett), on schools: Bexley, what the dedicated schools grant was per pupil for each London borough. [132644]

Jim Knight: The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was first introduced in 2006-07; the funding that each London borough received in 2006-07 and the indicative allocation for 2007-08 are detailed in the following table:

	2006-07 Final		*2007-08 Indicative*	
	DSG guaranteed unit of funding per pupil	*Total DSG funding (£ million)*	*DSG guaranteed unit of funding per pupil*	*Total DSG funding (£ million)*
Camden	5,551.08	110.974	5,922.61	118.874
Greenwich	4,745.46	157.469	5,120.20	169.199
Hackney	5,490.66	140.069	5,906.04	151.250
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,069.52	78.825	5,413.02	81.724
Islington	5,146.07	116.438	5,555.20	124.584
Kensington and Chelsea	5,210.96	56.218	5,532.73	60.272
Lambeth	5,207.74	147.071	5,596.25	160.127
Lewisham	4,996.83	161.465	5,335.09	169.833
Southwark	5,161.89	167.665	5,525.05	173.653
Tower Hamlets	5,669.73	197.620	6,028.42	215.852
Wandsworth	4,512.85	124.128	4,891.66	135.255
Westminster	4,852.82	86.014	5,203.08	90.690
Barking and Dagenham	4,097.13	119.913	4,378.90	128.780
Barnet	4,081.12	173.792	4,344.26	186.125
Bexley	3,719.15	137.002	3,969.90	145.552
Brent	4,315.53	159.124	4,663.30	175.401
Bromley	3,525.16	156.417	3,775.05	167.060
Croydon	3,805.52	186.482	4,079.87	196.467
Ealing	4,339.44	170.813	4,634.20	183.560
Enfield	3,984.34	186.575	4,256.52	201.906
Haringey	4,481.61	144.409	4,790.71	156.829
Harrow	4,050.85	119.052	4,310.75	128.111
Havering	3,718.84	133.791	3,961.84	141.827
Hillingdon	3,918.76	148.435	4,179.20	158.629
Hounslow	4,166.68	134.705	4,457.19	144.218
Kingston upon Thames	3,826.14	73.799	4,068.61	77.964
Merton	4,004.28	87.087	4,270.05	90.552
Newham	4,526.29	215.377	4,860.15	233.900
Redbridge	3,756.81	151.437	4,027.42	163.239
Richmond upon Thames	3,880.40	80.464	4,119.38	85.895
Sutton	3,809.62	107.407	4,065.90	113.797
Waltham Forest	4,115.24	144.467	4,399.07	153.499

Notes:
1. Figures are on a cash basis
2. Prior to the introduction of the DSG, funding for nursery, primary and secondary school aged pupils was through the Education Funding System (EFS) which was part of the local government finance settlement. EFS was based on what an authority needed to fund education whereas DSG is largely based on an authority's previous spending. EFS also included funding for an authority's central functions, this is still part of DCLG's local government finance settlement rather than DSG. For these reasons EFS and DSG are not comparable.
3. The DSG does not represent the totality of education funding; there are other grants that support the schools budget which have not been included in the table.

Source:
http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=9405

Schools: Complaints

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received on his Department's guidance on school complaints procedures, LEA/01/0180/2003. [127412]

Jim Knight: During Anti-Bullying Week 2006, the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) launched a draft report into school bullying complaints procedures. The Department is facilitating a consultation with key stakeholders on behalf of the OCC and expects to receive the final report in April/May 2007. In addition, the Local Government Ombudsman recently wrote to the Department about the possibility of extending his remit to cover the internal management of schools. No other representations have been received by the Department on school complaints procedures.

Schools: Crime

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many criminal offences were committed by pupils on school premises in each year since 1997. [132378]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the dedicated schools grant was for Eastbourne in each of the last 10 years; [125458]

(2) what the average funding per school pupil is in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England in 2006-07. [125638]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills allocates revenue funding to local authorities so the requested information is not available for Eastbourne.

The dedicated schools grant (DSG) was introduced in 2006-07, prior to this authorities' revenue funded was from standard spending assessments (SSA) and education formula spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. The per pupil funding for East Sussex local authority and England from 1997-98 to 2005-06 was:

Funding per three-19 year old pupil in real terms (£)

	East Sussex	*England*
1997-98	3,030	3,030
1998-99	3,100	3,090
1999-00	3,220	3,230
2000-01	3,480	3,480
2001-02	3,640	3,650
2002-03	3,740	3,760
2003-04	3,790	3,880
2004-05	3,950	4,020
2005-06	4,130	4,230

Notes:
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 27 September 2006.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three-19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three year old maintained pupils and estimated three-four year olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The introduction of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education; the 2006-07 DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending.

In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through CLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, we have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. There are other grants that support the schools budget, these are not included in the provided DSG figures. The cash figures for all funded pupils aged three-15 in East Sussex and England are shown in the following table.

£

	2005-06 Baseline	*2006-07 DSG guaranteed unit of funding*	*2007-08 DSG guaranteed unit of funding*
East Sussex	3,371	3,598	3,831
England	3,411	3,643	3,888

Schools: Private Finance Initiative

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which schools have Eco-school status at *(a)* bronze, *(b)* silver and *(c)* green flag level; and whether each school listed was (i) built and (ii) maintained through a private finance initiative contract. [134449]

Jim Knight: Eco-schools hold the information about which schools have achieved *(a)* bronze, *(b)* silver and *(c)* green flag levels. In total, 2,633 schools have so far been awarded bronze awards, of these 1,301 have gone on to achieve a silver award; and 562 schools have been awarded a green flag.

DFES has record of 833 PFI schools in England. Of these schools, 68 have achieved Eco-schools status at one of the Eco-schools levels. All schools that were built under PFI are also maintained through a private finance contract. However there are 12 schools in Stoke-on-Trent that were not built under PFI but are maintained under a private finance contract that have achieved one of the eco-schools award levels.

Numbers of schools achieving the Eco-schools award levels	*Schools maintained but not built under PFI (in Stoke-on-Trent)*	*Total number of schools built and maintained under PFI in England*
Bronze	12	56
Silver	2	18
Green flag	3	6

Schools: Standards

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many and what percentage of *(a)* community schools, *(b)* voluntary aided schools, *(c)* voluntary controlled schools, *(d)* foundation schools, *(e)* city technology colleges and *(f)* academies were in Ofsted categories (i) special measures, (ii) serious weaknesses and (iii) underachieving in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority; [132878]

(2) how many and what percentage of *(a)* community schools, *(b)* voluntary-aided schools, *(c)* voluntary controlled schools, *(d)* foundation schools, *(e)* city technology colleges and *(f)* academies were in Ofsted category (i) special measures, (ii) serious weaknesses and (iii) underachieving in each year since 1997 (A) in total and (B) in each local authority; [127555]

(3) how many and what percentage of *(a)* community schools, *(b)* voluntary aided schools, *(c)* voluntary controlled schools, *(d)* foundation schools, *(e)* city technology colleges and *(f)* academies were in Ofsted category (i) special measures and (ii) notice to improve in 2007, broken down by local education authority; [132879]

(4) how many and what percentage of *(a)* community schools, *(b)* voluntary-aided schools, *(c)* voluntary controlled schools, *(d)* foundation schools, *(e)* city technology colleges and *(f)* academies were in Ofsted category (i) special measures and (ii) notice to improve in 2007 (A) in total and (B) in each local authority. [127556]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 3 May 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked in question number 132878 how many and what percentage of *(a)* community schools, *(b)* voluntary aided schools, *(c)* voluntary controlled schools, *(d)* foundation schools, *(e)* city technology colleges and *(f)* academies were in Ofsted categories (i) special measures, (ii) serious weaknesses and (iii) underachieving in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority.

You asked in question number 132879 how many, and what percentage of *(a)* community schools, *(b)* voluntary aided schools, *(c)* voluntary controlled schools, *(d)* foundation schools, *(e)* city technology colleges and *(f)* academies were in Ofsted category (i) special measures and (ii) notice to improve in 2007, broken down by local education authority.

The tables attached show the number and percentage of schools in a category at the end of each academic year, that is, on 31 August. In the course of any year, schools may be placed in and taken out of a category, and so the figures at any specific point during the preceding twelve months will not be the same as those for the end of the year. For the academic year 2006/07, the numbers only show schools in categories up to 31 December 2006 since these were the most recent set of schools for which we have complete inspection data.

The school type is that listed on our current database of Educational Establishments, as at April 2007.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Swimming Pools

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many maintained schools owned a swimming pool in each year since 1997. [119215]

Jim Knight: Data on school swimming pools were supplied to the Department by local education authorities in 2001 and 2003. However, the completeness and quality of the data was not good enough to accurately assess the number of pools. Data are not held for other years since 1997.

Schools: Tyne and Wear

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many schools were built in Tyne and Wear in each year since 1997; and how many are scheduled to be built; [135649]

(2) how many schools were scheduled to be refurbished in Tyne and Wear in each year since 1997; and how many were refurbished. [135650]

Jim Knight: School capital funding is allocated on a local authority basis. The Department does not maintain records of schools which are built or refurbished as prioritisation between types of build is decided at local authority level, using funds allocated by the Department and available locally.

Newcastle upon Tyne local authority currently has a wave 1 project in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. This includes 10 secondary schools to be rebuilt or refurbished, with a further six schools already receiving buildings investment, allocated additional ICT investment through BSF. Total BSF investment for these schools (including PFI credits) will total some £192 million. This wave 1 project is currently due for completion in March 2011.

Besides the BSF programme, there are allocations of £29 million of capital funding during the current period, 2005-06 to 2007-08, which will be prioritised at local authority and school level.

Secondary Education: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students are enrolled in secondary schools in the London Borough of Havering. [134552]

Jim Knight: In January 2006 there were 16,594 pupils enrolled in secondary schools in Havering.

Figures for January 2007 were published on Thursday 26 April in SFR 16/2007 (http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000726/index.shtml). Currently this publication contains only national level figures but local authority level tables will be added by 18 May 2007.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in secondary education in the London borough of Havering participated in work placement programmes in each year since 1997. [134549]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

Secondary Education: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many failing secondary schools there were in each of the last 20 years for which his Department and its predecessors have used such a classification. [133355]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: Failing schools are usually considered to be those judged by Ofsted to require special measures. The following table gives the number of secondary schools that Ofsted placed into this category in each academic year since 1993/94. This was the first year that special measures judgements were made.

Academic year	*Number of secondary schools placed into special measures*
1993/94	11
1994/95	20
1995/96	27
1996/97	28
1997/98	43
1998/99	29
1999/2000	38
2000/01	23
2001/02	19
2002/03	35
2003/04	61
2004/05	37
2005/06	32
2006/07 (to 31 March 2007)	21

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* title, *(b)* date of issue and *(c)* consultation period was of each document issued for (i) public consultation and (ii) limited consultation on provision for special educational needs in each year since 1997. [127383]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Special Educational Needs: Maintained Schools

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many maintained mainstream schools had *(a)* less than one per cent. *(b)* one to three per cent. *(c)* three to five per cent. *(d)* five to seven per cent. *(e)* seven to 10 per cent. *(f)* over 10 per cent. *(g)* over 20 per cent. *(h)* over 30 per cent. *(i)* over 40 per cent. and *(j)* over 50 per cent. of the school population with special educational needs in each year since 1997. [132387]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the table.

Some of the schools shown in the table will have resourced provision/units/special classes for pupils with special educational needs.

Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools[1]: Pupils with special educational needs (SEN)[2, 3]—1997-2006 position in January, each year—England

	Pupils with SEN									
	0-0.9%	*1.0-2.9%*	*3.0-4.9%*	*5.0-6.9%*	*7.0-9.9%*	*10.0-19.9%*	*20.0-29.9%*	*30.0-39.9%*	*40.0-49.9%*	*50% and over*
1997	944	632	558	840	1,962	9,140	5,751	1,873	586	219
1998	310	365	426	741	1,878	9,252	6,356	2,114	698	272
1999	217	210	298	584	1,517	9,353	6,695	2,409	730	301
2000	151	178	258	492	1,304	8,965	7,131	2,610	806	327
2001	164	219	227	428	1,244	8,559	7,161	2,841	890	323
2002	268	347	347	592	1,496	8,831	6,615	2,446	757	237
2003[4]	165	305	570	1,089	2,524	10,002	5,045	1,557	397	118
2004[4]	151	307	576	974	2,422	9,970	5,120	1,580	428	113
2005[4]	115	274	523	901	2,280	9,963	5,168	1,699	417	143
2006[4]	94	224	435	755	2,079	9,614	5,577	1,892	493	161

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Includes pupils with special education needs with a statement and those with special educational needs without a statement.
[4] Due to changes in the classification system for SEN, the number of pupils with SEN without statements reported in 2003 and later are not directly comparable with earlier years.
Source:
School Census

Standard Assessment Tasks

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average Standard Assessment Test (SAT) results were at key stages *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three for (i) mathematics, (ii) English and (iii) science in each year since the introduction of SAT. [133450]

Jim Knight: Information on the proportion of pupils achieving the expected level at the end of each Key Stage is shown as follows:

Key Stage 1: Percentage of pupils in all schools in England achieving Level 2 or above, 1995 to 2006

	Mathematics	Reading	Writing	Spelling
1995	79	78	80	—
1996	82	78	79	—
1997	84	80	80	62
1998	84	80	81	66
1999	87	82	83	71
2000	90	83	84	72
2001	91	84	86	75
2002	90	84	86	78
2003	90	84	81	—
2004	90	85	82	—
2005	91	85	82	—
2006	90	84	81	—

Notes:
1. 2006 figures are provisional. Figures for all other years are based on final data.
2. The spelling test was only taken between 1997 to 2002.
3. For Key Stage 1 a new method of assessment, where only teacher assessments (TA) were reported, was trialled in some LAs in 2004 and fully rolled out in 2005. As a result figures for 1995-2003 are based on test/task results, 2004 figures are calculated using a combination of TA results for trial schools and test/task results for non-trial schools, 2005-06 figures are based on teacher assessment results. Hence data shown in the table for results from 2004 onwards are not directly comparable with those prior to 2004, and care is needed in interpreting trends in the data.

Key Stage 2: Percentage of pupils in all schools in England achieving Level 4 or above, 1995 to 2006

	English	Mathematics	Science
1995	49	45	70
1996	57	54	62
1997	63	62	69
1998	65	59	69
1999	71	69	78
2000	75	72	85
2001	75	71	87
2002	75	73	86
2003	75	73	87
2004	78	74	86
2005	79	75	86
2006	79	76	87

Note:
2006 figures are revised. Figures for all other years are based on final data.

Key Stage 3: Percentage of pupils in all schools in England achieving Level 5 or above, 1995 to 2006

	English	Mathematics	Science
1995	55	58	56
1996	57	57	57
1997	57	60	60
1998	65	59	56
1999	64	62	55
2000	64	65	59
2001	65	66	66
2002	67	67	67
2003	69	71	68
2004	71	73	66
2005	74	74	70
2006	73	77	72

Note:
2006 figures are revised. Figures for all other years are based on final data.

Students: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from Darlington were allocated a university place in each year since 1996. [135017]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the following table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Number of entrants to undergraduate courses from Darlington local authority UK higher education institutions[1] academic years 1996/97 to 2005/06

Academic year	Number of entrants
1996/97	550
1997/98	590
1998/99	640
1999/2000	660
2000/01	725
2001/02	805
2002/03	1,020
2003/04	985
2004/05	1,015
2005/06	990

[1] Excludes the Open University.

Note:
Figures are on snapshot basis as at the 1 of December and are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Teachers: Manpower

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people with qualified teacher status there were in *(a)* pupil referral units, *(b)* special needs units attached to mainstream schools, *(c)* classes in maintained mainstream schools and *(d)* maintained special schools in each year from 1997 to 2007. [133711]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent regular teachers with qualified teacher status employed in pupil referral units, mainstream nursery/primary and secondary schools and maintained special schools in England, January 1997 to 2007.

The number of teachers employed in special needs units attached to mainstream schools cannot be provided separately.

Full-time equivalent number of regular qualified teachers in pupil referral units, maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools and maintained special schools in England, January 1997 to 2007[1]

	Pupil referral units[2]	Maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools	Maintained special schools
1997	3,220	378,320	14,700
1998	3,520	376,660	14,260
1999	3,860	379,620	14,150
2000	3,960	382,740	14,120
2001	4,150	386,380	14,030
2002	4,650	389,660	13,860
2003	4,900	389,830	13,630
2004	5,220	391,040	13,750
2005	5,970	394,000	13,330
2006	6,300	397,870	13,470
2007[3]	6,530	398,300	13,470

[2] Pupil referral unit teacher numbers include other teachers who work outside of mainstream primary, secondary and special schools i.e. home tutors.
[3] Provisional
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
DfES annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies,618g (Teachers)

Teachers: Occupational Health

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London Borough of Havering and *(c)* Romford had work-related accidents in each year since 1997. [134546]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of reported work-related injuries to teachers or teaching professionals in schools in the London Government office region and the London borough of Havering in each year from 1996-97 to 2005-06 which were classed as major or required an absence from work of over three days. This information is not available for Romford constituency.

A change to the occupations coding framework from 2002/03 means that figures from this year are not directly comparable with earlier years.

Injuries to teachers[1] *in educational establishments in the London Government office region (GOR) and the London borough of Havering 1996-97 to 2005-06*[2] *as reported to all enforcing authorities.*

	London GOR (including LB of Havering)			London borough of Havering		
	Major injuries	Over 3 day injuries	Total	Major injuries	Over 3 day injuries	Total
1996-97	49	92	141	0	3	3
1997-98	49	97	146	1	0	1
1998-99	47	108	155	5	7	12
1999-2000	38	116	154	1	7	8
2000-01	49	109	158	1	1	2
2001-02	36	85	121	0	1	1
2002-03	40	106	146	3	1	4
2003-04	57	123	180	1	5	6
2004-05	64	117	181	3	4	7
2005-06[2]	64	114	178	3	6	9

[1] A change to the occupations coding framework used to compile these figures from 2002/03 means that information from that year onward are not directly comparable with the earlier years. Information to 2001-02 includes teachers in primary and secondary education. Information from 2002-03 includes teaching professionals in primary and nursery, secondary, special educational needs and teaching professionals not elsewhere classified.
[2] Provisional.
Source:
Health and Safety Executive.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total salary payments to people with qualified teacher status in *(a)* pupil referral units, *(b)* special needs units attached to mainstream schools, *(c)* classes in maintained mainstream schools and *(d)* maintained special schools was in each year from 1997 to 2007. [133712]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the total expenditure on staff employed in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools and maintained special schools in England, financial years 1997-98 to 2005-06.

Expenditure for teaching staff employed in pupil referral units is not available and information for special needs units attached to mainstream schools cannot be provided separately.

Total expenditure on teaching staff[1] *in local authority maintained schools*[2] *in England, 1997-98 to 2005-06*[3,4,5] *cash terms figures*[1,6] *as reported by local authorities as at 25th April 2007*

£

	Total expenditure by maintained schools on teaching staff (including supply teachers)[1,7]	
	Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools	Maintained special schools
1997-98	8,990,811,000	451,502,000
1998-99	9,330,524,000	457,626,000
1999-00[3,4]	11,314,775,000	496,800,000
2000-01	12,199,008,000	533,604,000
2001-02	13,599,180,000	573,490,000

Total expenditure on teaching staff[1] in local authority maintained schools[2] in England: 1997-98 to 2005-06[3,4,5] (cash terms figures)[6] as reported by local authorities as at 25th April 2007

£

	Total expenditure by maintained schools on teaching staff (including supply teachers)[1,2]	
	Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools	*Maintained special schools*
2002-03[3,7]	14,027,268,000	582,243,000
2003-04	15,457,315,000	638,386,000
2004-05	16,037,051,000	658,115,000
2005-06[7]	16,767,800,000	689,393,000

[1] Includes teachers employed directly by the school, including supernumerary/ perquisite teachers on short-term contracts and supply teaching staff who are covering curriculum release, long term absence, sickness absence and training absence. Relates to all contracted full- time and part- time teachers paid within the scope of the 'The Education (School Teachers' Pay and Conditions) Order' and includes expenditure on salaries and wages consisting of gross pay, including bonus and allowances, maternity pay and the employer's contributions to national insurance and superannuation. Also includes threshold payments and other payments relating to teacher reforms. Expenditure on supply teachers not employed directly from the school (i.e. paid via an agency or another third party) are also included. Does not include expenditure on teaching staff employed centrally by the local authority.

[2] Includes all local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools. Figures for 2002-03 exclude expenditure by local authority maintained nursery schools as these were not collected in that year.

[3] 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DFES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of consistent financial reporting (CFR) to schools and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the blank row.

[4] 1999-00 figures reflect to return of grant maintained schools to local authority maintenance.

[5] 2005-06 data remain provisional and subject to change by the local authority.

[6] Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Teachers: Overseas-Trained

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what information his Department has supplied to overseas-trained teachers on qualified teacher status. [135602]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The work permit approval letters issued by Work Permits (UK) to employers provide information on the requirement to obtain QTS within four years in order to be able to continue teaching, and instruct the employers to bring the four year rule to the attention of the overseas trained teacher.

My Department has sent out several reminders about the fact that overseas-trained teachers cannot continue to teach in schools beyond four years unless they have obtained qualified teacher status. These are sent in e-format, to schools, local authorities and also to employment agencies via the Recruitment Employment Confederation as well as information provided on the teachernet website and in 'A Guide to the Law for School Governors'.

The most recent communication, in September 2006, also mentioned that it was intended that overseas trained teachers, who were on employment based teacher training programmes at the point of their four year anniversary, would cease to be eligible to work as teachers from September 2007.

Teaching Methods: Finance

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which projects aimed at promoting the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto are planned to receive funding; and how much each will receive. [130220]

Jim Knight: Between 2006-08, the Department will make available £2.7 million for the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto. The majority of this money will support the delivery of the 'Out and About package'—a series of training modules and supporting guidance to help teachers, school staff and providers deliver high quality learning outside the classroom experiences. Because the package is being put out for competitive tender, it is not possible to provide an exact figure for its total cost. In addition to the Manifesto funding, the government will continue to fund other projects that support learning outside the classroom, for example in 2007-08, the joint DCMS/DfES Museums and Galleries programme will be supported by £4.7 million funding and the London Challenge New Views will receive £1.6 million.

Thomas Telford School: Admissions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with the governing body of Thomas Telford School on allowing admissions of pupils living in the TF6 postcode area of Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. [122614]

Jim Knight: The Department has not had any discussions on this matter with the governing body of Thomas Telford School. Officials did contact the head teacher when the hon. Member first raised the issue in correspondence in autumn last year. The head teacher's view was that the school did not wish to seek a change to its catchment area, but if the Admissions Forum requested a change they would consider it and if appropriate submit a request to the Secretary of State. No such request has been received.

Truancy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of half days were missed due to unauthorised absence from maintained mainstream schools in *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency, *(b)* Suffolk and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [134682]

Jim Knight: The percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence from maintained mainstream schools in (a) Suffolk, (b) Bedfordshire, (c) Cambridgeshire, (d) Essex, (e) Hertfordshire and (f) Norfolk in each year since 1997 are shown as follows:

Unauthorised pupil absence (percentage of half days missed) in maintained primary schools[1] by L.A. 1997/98 to 2005/06[2]

Local authority	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06 (final)*
Bedfordshire	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.21	0.21	0.17	0.22	0.25
Cambridgeshire	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.33	0.34	0.39	0.39	0.46

Unauthorised pupil absence (percentage of half days missed) in maintained primary schools[1] by LA, 1997/98 to 2005/06[2,3]

Local authority	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06 (final)
Essex	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.35	0.37	0.37	0.33	0.38
Hertfordshire	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.37	0.34	0.32	0.33	0.34
Norfolk	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.46	0.45	0.41	0.42	0.41
Suffolk	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.26	0.25	0.27	0.31	0.33
England	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.45	0.43	0.41	0.43	0.45

Unauthorised pupil absence (percentage of half days missed) in maintained secondary schools[1] by LA, 1997/98 to 2005/06[2,3]

Local authority	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06 (final)
Bedfordshire	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.41	0.42	0.42	0.68	0.50
Cambridgeshire	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.77	0.81	0.80	1.04	1.02
Essex	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.90	0.84	1.00	1.09	1.07
Hertfordshire	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.91	0.75	0.75	0.77	0.75
Norfolk	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.07	1.02	1.02	1.08	1.22
Suffolk	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.89	1.08	1.32	1.29	1.34
England	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.09	1.07	1.13	1.23	1.20

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Due to local government reorganisation, regional figures are not available prior to 1998.
[3] Figures for the above local authorities are available to one decimal place prior to 2001/02 and two decimal places from 2001/02 onwards.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Vocational Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what impact he expects the launch of the 14 to 19 diplomas to have on the vocational qualifications available to the 14 to 19 age group. [135143]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* In September 2008 the Diplomas will only be available on a limited basis across the country. Other vocational qualifications will continue to be available and schools and colleges will be able to choose what to offer to young people. The impact of the introduction of diplomas on other vocational qualifications therefore will be determined by the choices that schools, colleges and ultimately young people make. We expect young people to increasingly choose a diploma or apprenticeship rather than one of the other vocational qualifications available to them, except where those vocational qualifications are part of a diploma, as we build up to the national entitlement from 2013. Our aim, as set out in the 14 to 19 White Paper, has always been to achieve a clearer set of choices for young people, each one leading to a recognised and valued qualification.

Young People: Unemployment

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* 16-year-olds, *(b)* 17-year-olds and *(c)* 18-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (i) are from (A) each social class and (B) each ethnic group and (ii) have a disability. [135320]

Jim Knight: The following tables give estimates of the proportion of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (i) from (A) each social class (NS-SEC) and (B) each ethnic group and; (ii) who have a disability. These are survey based estimates and have been obtained from the youth cohort study—they relate to the same cohort of young people at each age. NS-SEC is derived from parental occupation.

Table 1: Proportion of 16, 17 and 18-year—olds not in education, employment or training from each social class (NS-SEC)

Percentage

	Population at age 16	NEET age 16 in 2004	NEET age 17 in 2005	NEET age 18 in 2006
Large employers and higher professionals	18	7	7	15
Lower professional and higher technical occupations	26	16	18	22
Intermediate occupations	22	18	21	21
Lower supervisory occupations	9	10	12	9
Semi routine and routine occupations	13	23	21	16
Other	12	26	21	17

Table 2: Proportion of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training from each ethnic group

	Population at age 16	NEET age 16 in 2004	NEET age 17 in 2005	NEET age 18 in 2006
				Percentage
White	86	87	87	88
Black	3	2	1	2
Indian	2	1	1	1
Pakistani/Bangladeshi	3	5	5	4
Other Asian (including Chinese)	1	[1]	1	1
Other ethnic group (including mixed)	3	3	2	3
Not answered	2	2	3	1

Table 3: Proportion of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training with a disability

	Population at age 16	NEET age 16 in 2004	NEET age 17 in 2005	NEET age 18 in 2006
				Percentage
Yes	4	8	7	7
No	94	89	89	93
Not answered	2	3	4	[1]

[1] Less than 0.5 per cent.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 10 May 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: Costs

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of establishing the predecessor to her Department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [134811]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) was created following the Machinery of Government changes on 29 May 2002. No additional public expenditure would have been incurred as a consequence of establishing the ODPM. Any costs, such as relocation of incoming staff from other Departments' buildings and changes to signage and stationery, would have been met from existing budgets. A breakdown of such costs by cost area is not available.

Part-time Employment: Females

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to increase the availability of high quality part-time work for women. [135606]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: The Government are working closely with employers from both the public and private sector to open up more quality jobs on a part-time basis. On 2 April we announced the projects awarded funding from a £500,000 quality part-time work initiative. This is a new initiative by Communities and Local Government which is designed to support projects across the UK that increase the number of senior and quality jobs that are available part-time.

The 13 successful projects include transforming big organisations, working with young people to create awareness of quality part-time working, setting up a national job-share register, and opening up part-time opportunities for senior women investigators in the police force. All projects are required to have good arrangements for disseminating the lessons learned to other employers and we believe they can have a real impact.

Playgrounds

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on the *(a)* installation and *(b)* maintenance of (i) rubberised surfaces and (ii) loose fill surfaces in public playgrounds in each year since 1997. [136539]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Betting Shops

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations her Department received on the Gambling Commission and local authority fees for betting shops in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and if she will make a statement. [136430]

Mr. Caborn: The formal responses to the consultation exercises relating to implementation of the licence fees under the Gambling Act 2005 and associated follow-up queries were as follows:

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Gambling Commission	0	235	6
Licensing authorities	0	0	36
Totals	0	235	42

We also had a number of meetings with betting shop representatives including with the Association of British Bookmakers.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which Ministers in her Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135541]

Tessa Jowell: The Government publish an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

A detailed list of visits by all UK Ministers to India since 2003 can be found on the British high commission website at:

http:/www.britishhighcommission.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1038154781863

Gaming Machines

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1119-20W, on gaming machines, what the critical milestones are for finalising the testing regime for ensuring that gaming machines comply with the technical standards required under the Gambling Act 2005. [136183]

Mr. Caborn: The testing regime is the subject of ongoing discussions between the Gambling Commission and the industry, test houses and other stakeholders. The Gambling Commission will publish final machine technical standards by 1 June 2007. At the same time, it intends to publish its high-level approach to the testing of gaming machines. Detailed process requirements will be developed with the industry and test houses beyond this date.

National Lottery: Arts Council of Wales

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much the Arts Council of Wales received from the National Lottery in 2006; and how much it is expected to receive in 2007; [136167]

(2) what the investment returns were for the Arts Council of Wales from National Lottery funding *(a)* in August 2006 and *(b)* in the most recent period for which figures are available. [136168]

Mr. Caborn: The following table shows the Arts Council of Wales income from the National Lottery Distribution Fund for the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07; for August 2006 alone, and estimated figures, based on the Department's latest income projections, for 2007-08.

Arts Council of Wales

£

	Operated related income[1]	*Investment Income*[1]	*Total Income*[1]
Entire financial year 2005-06	11,532,000	931,000	12,463,000
August 2006	970,000	58,000	1,028,000
Entire financial year 2006-07	10,046,000	745,000	10,791,000
Financial Year 2007-08[2]	10,288,000	783,000	11,071,000

[1] To the nearest £1,000
[2] Estimated

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much National Lottery-funded money is yet to be allocated by the Arts Council of Wales; and what that figure was in August 2006. [136169]

Mr. Caborn: The Arts Council of Wales provides my Department with data on the level of unpaid commitments at the final day of each quarter of the financial year. The closest figure to August 2006 that we have available is September 2006.

On 30 September 2006 the Arts Council of Wales balance in the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) was £18,501,937. Its forward commitments including both contractually binding and "in principle" commitments totalled £22,309,580. It was therefore overcommitted on its NLDF balance by £3,807,643.

On 31 March 2007 the Arts Council of Wales balance was £16,625,562. Its forward commitments, including both contractually binding and "in principle" commitments totalled £18,001,516. It was therefore overcommitted by £1,375,954.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what events in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held outside London. [136288]

Mr. Caborn: The 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will see several events held outside London.

The football tournament will include games in Glasgow, Cardiff, Newcastle, Manchester and Birmingham. The sailing will be in Weymouth and Portland; rowing will be in Eton Dorney; whitewater canoeing will be in Broxbourne (Hertfordshire) and mountain biking in Weald Country Park (Essex).

In addition, the Cultural Olympiad will take place across the UK, with events and festivals outside London over the four years up to and including 2012. The 2012 Torch Relays are likely to involve many major cities and towns throughout the UK in the run up to the 2012 Games. The route for the Torch Relays will be devised in order to maximise the opportunities for as much of the UK population to be involved as possible.

Communities can also benefit from hosting sports events or pre-Games training camps for overseas teams in the run up to the Games.

The London 2012 website includes further details of venues:

http://www.london2012.org/en/ourvision/sport+and+venue+information/list+of+all+venues/

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of construction training programmes set up to ensure adequate numbers of skilled contractors to work on the construction stages of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. [136290]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for the construction industry has developed the ConstructionSkills Network, a cross country alliance to provide the industry with a comprehensive model for forecasting capacity, productivity and skills to help employers and others plan for the impact of future trends on the construction workforce. Details of the numbers of people and the roles they will fulfil in the Olympics and Paralympics and other major projects such as the Thames Gateway are currently being refined and as plans are finalised for planned developments so the Network will be able to produce more accurate figures.

The newly established National Skills Academy for Construction (NSA) will support work-based learning centres for major construction projects including Olympics and Paralympics projects. This work-based learning approach will enable employers more easily to train local people. In Greater London 26 quality training providers have joined in partnership with the National Skills Academy in order to meet the customised needs of employers.

In addressing the skills needs of the Olympics and other major projects in London and the South East of England, ConstructionSkills has set the following targets.

To deliver a NSA base on every Olympic project.

To deliver over 4,500 apprenticeships by 2012.

To provide specialised training at the National Construction College for Plant Operators and other identified skills gaps.

Using both On Site Assessment and Training (OSAT) and the Experienced Worker Practical Assessment (EWPA) programmes to deliver over 33,000 people qualified by 2012.

Sports: Sponsorship

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidelines her Department has issued to national sports governing bodies on the sponsorship of sports events and competitions involving children by commercial organisations. [136282]

Mr. Caborn: Neither the Department nor Sport England provide specific guidance to governing bodies on the sponsorship of sports events and competitions involving children by commercial organisations.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's policy is on the sponsorship of sports events and competitions involving children by commercial organisations that produce food and drink products that are high in fat, salt and sugar. [136283]

Mr. Caborn: Neither my Department nor Sport England provide specific guidance on the sponsorship of sports events and competitions involving children by commercial organisations.

However, the Public Health White Paper "Choosing Health", published in November 2004, sets out the Government's commitment to help people lead healthier and more active lives. In particular, my Department shares with the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills a Public Service Agreement target to

"halt the year-on-year increase in obesity among children under 11 by 2010, in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole".

In line with its corporate social responsibility, the food industry is an important partner in our cross-Government programme of work to achieve this.

World Heritage Sites

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the applications from the UK which are under consideration for the status of World Heritage Site; and if she will make a statement. [136132]

Mr. Lammy: The current UK nominations being considered by UNESCO for World Heritage inscription are Darwin at Downe, which will be considered by the World Heritage Committee in June 2007 and The Antonine Wall, which will be considered in summer 2008.

In addition, on 10 October 2006, I announced that Pontcysyllte Aqueduct would be nominated in 2008 for consideration in 2009 and the twin Monastery of Wearmouth and Jarrow would be nominated in 2009 for consideration in 2010.

Excluding the sites named above, 13 sites remain on the UK's Tentative List and some 46 sites, including Colchester, have expressed their interest in being considered for inclusion on a possible revised List.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Mass Media

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance he has issued on the making of statements to the media on policy matters by spouses of military members of the Army Board. [134175]

Des Browne *[holding answer 26 April 2007]*: No guidance has been issued to the spouses of military members of the Army Board.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methods other than financial incentives are being used to improve recruitment and retention in the armed forces. [131698]

Derek Twigg: All three services undertake numerous and varied initiatives, both at national and local level, aimed at sustaining and increasing the level of recruitment to the armed forces. Included among the many current initiatives are:

The use of multi-media advertising campaigns.

Services' recruiting teams' attendance at schools, careers fairs and graduate recruitment seminars, road shows, exhibitions, youth clubs and organisations.

Specialist teams to attract doctors, dentists, nurses, lawyers and padres by promoting service careers within specialist recruitment shows and through professional bodies.

Work experience placements within service establishments.

Personal development courses and 'look at life courses for young people who express an interest in the armed forces.

Taster day visits to HM ships and service establishments.

A dedicated careers website for each of the services complete with a dedicated information support call centre.

An Army 'on-line' recruiting office, with plans for this to be replicated by the other services.

Specialist ethnic minority recruiting and diversity action teams aimed at promoting Armed forces careers among the UK's ethnic minority and faith communities.

A partnership with Jobcentre Plus, making use of its network (totalling in excess of 1,100) of local outlets. As a measurement of the success of this partnership, in finapcial year 2005-06 some 1,200 referrals went on to become enlistments.

Taken across the armed forces, retention is generally satisfactory. Nevertheless in some areas, exit rates are still too high and require us to work hard at retaining people in these areas. Retention measures such as:

Initiatives to improve work/life balance include proposals such as allowing personnel to work flexibly where it is operationally possible to do so and where personnel have reached a certain stage in their careers.

Within the naval services, the re-balancing lives initiative (RBL) seeks to improve the work/life balance of our people.

The future Army structure will lengthen tour intervals, improve career development and effectiveness of our soldiers and, with more robust structures, the quality of life for them and their families. The whole Army will be on a system of individual postings, which together with other linked initiatives will improve stability for Army personnel and their families.

The RAF continues to explore the scope to allow greater employment flexibility and achievement of work/life balance aspirations, which might help improve the recruitment and retention of its personnel, including: flexible working hours, job share, career breaks, sabbaticals and secondments, greater family stability. Recent improvements have been made to the operational welfare package, the aim of which is to maintain the strength and morale of service personnel in order to optimise and maintain effectiveness. It does so by providing support for the physical and emotional well-being of service personnel deployed on operations. Recent improvements to the package include an increase in the free weekly telephone calls from 20 to 30 minutes and a tax bonus. Other benefits of the package include free e-mails facility, free "blueys" (mail), free packages from families to personnel of up to 2 kg over the Christmas period and up to 14 days rest and recuperation break during a six month tour.

Armed Forces: Secondments

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how long members of the armed forces are seconded to the households of non-ministerial members of the Army Board. [134510]

Derek Twigg: Postings conform to normal Army rules and vary in length depending on circumstances. The normal tour length for chefs is three years, and for other posts is two years.

Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen and women were waiting for treatment by the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, Surrey on 16 April. [132846]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court offers a range of in-patient rehabilitation services and is the base for the Defence Medical Services' Rheumatology and Rehabilitation (R&R) consultants. Broadly, three categories of patient attend DMRC:

Patients requiring immediate assessment and treatment, often from overseas locations, who can be seen by DMRC without prior hospital treatment. Patients are admitted directly with no waiting time.

Patients with complex rehabilitation requirements following hospital treatment for trauma or other physical injuries. Such patients include the operational casualties typically treated in NHS hospitals in Birmingham. The care pathways for these patients are planned to ensure that they come to DMRC at the most appropriate time in their clinical treatment, with the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Evaluation and Coordination Cell at Headley Court coordinating the case management of these patients. There is no waiting list for such patients—in other words, there are no such patients who ought to have started their treatment at Headley Court but who have been delayed in doing so because of any capacity limits at DMRC.

Patients for routine assessment and treatment are referred directly to the R&R consultants or via our Regional Rehabilitation Units. The consultants offer appointments depending on clinical need, the availability of the patient and the start date of suitable courses of therapy for the patient's condition. Most patients in this category will be seen within six weeks of being referred to DMRC.

Defence Medical Service

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's expenditure was on *(a)* the Defence Medical Service and *(b)* each cadre of the Defence Medical Service in each of the last five years. [132622]

Derek Twigg: The information is currently being collated. I will write to the hon. Member when this has been completed, and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Departments: Horses

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on polo ponies in each of the last five years. [136384]

Derek Twigg: The MOD does not own any polo ponies.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135732]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites. Direct expenditure on these and the number of page views that each site received in the financial year 2006-07 were as follows:

Website	*URL*	*Annual expenditure*	*Unique page views per annum*
Ministry of Defence	http://www.mod.uk/	£177,875	17.6 million
Royal Navy	http://www.royal-navy.mod.uk/	£178,398	36.7 million
British Army	http://www.army.mod.uk	£160,000	52.3 million
Royal Air Force	http://www.raf.mod.uk/	£126,860.90	Visits—8,000 Hits—27,964,736

The following websites are maintained by business units within MOD. We have embarked on a programme of rationalising content from these sites into the four corporate sites and expect to see a significant reduction in the number of sites over the next two years. This list does not include sites created and maintained by individual units or regiments.

Website	*URL*	*Annual expenditure*	*Unique page views per annum*
Army Jobs	http://www.armyjobs.mod.uk/	Not available	12.3 million
British Forces Post Office	http://www .bfpo.mod.uk/	No hosting fees, £2,500 for in-house maintenance	1,168,000
UK Defence Standardization	http://www.dstan.mod.uk/	£44,000	2.1 million
Chief Scientific Advisor	http://www.science.mod.uk/	£1,000	Not available
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	http://www.veterans-uk.info/	£56,826	Visits—566,910 Page views—2,724,268
Acquisition Safety and Environmental Management System	http://www.asems.mod.uk/	£1,000	Not available
Central Data Management Authority	http://www.cdma.mod.uk/	1,500	Not known
Defence Analytical Services Agency	http://www.dasa.mod.uk/	£17,500	Not recorded
Defence Schools Presentation Team	http://www.schools.mod.uk/	£2,000	81,800 sessions
The 'We Were There Exhibition' Website	http://www.wewerethere.mod.uk/	£2,000	56,112 sessions
Defence Image Database	http://www.defenceimagedatabase.mod.uk/	£7,990	791,325
Defence Export Services Organisation	http://www.deso.mod.uk/	£37,000	4,716 unique visitors
Royal Navy Community Website	http://www.rncom.mod.uk/	£4,712	11.7 million
Defence Storage and Distribution Agency	www.dsda.org.uk/index.htm	£300 (hosting cost only)	8,568
MOD Procurement Portal	http://www.contracts.mod.uk/ Website provided as part of requirement for the publication and distribution of the MOD Defence Contracts Bulletin and associated services	Included in overall contract separate figure for website not available	203,314 visits 1,222,427 page impressions
Defence Academy	www.da.mod.uk/DefenceAcademy 32 sites under this banner, 6 represent major colleges. Remainder special-purpose vehicles for course support etc.	£18,000	5.22 million
Defence Aviation Safety Centre	www.dasc.mod.uk/	£1,000	Not available
Defence Bills Agency	www.defencebills.gov.uk/	£240 (hosting only)	Not available
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	www.dstl.gov.uk/	Unable to provide at present	580,696
Disposal Services Agency	www.disposalservices.agency.mod.uk/	Unavailable	750,000 session 5 million page views
ABRO	www.abro.mod.uk/	£1,250	320,000 unique page views
Meteorological Office	http://www.metoffice.com/	£450,000 annual costs £360,000 upgrade costs	327 million hits, 36 million visitors
UK Hydrographic Office	http://www.ukho.gov.uk/	£162,600—For this financial year	384,000
Defence Aviation Repair Agency	http://www.daranet.co.uk/	Not available	13,260
Competition of Ideas	http://www.ideas.mod.uk/	£40,000	Not available
Defence Engineering and Science Group	http://www.desg.mod.uk/	£300 (hosting cost only)	210,000 (from October 2006 to May 2007)
Grand Challenge	www.challenge.mod.uk	£2,000 (full year est)	72,000 (from November 2006-May 2007)

Current Information was unavailable for the following websites—2005-06 figures have been provided:

Website	*URL*	*Annual expenditure*	*Unique page views per annum*
Defence Estates	http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/	£32,500	450,000
Joint Air Transport Evaluation Unit	http://www.jateu.mod.uk/	£3,000	Not available
UK National Codification Bureau	http://www.ncb.mod.uk/	£32,000	None available
Permanent Joint Headquarters	http://www.northwood.mod.uk/	£3,000	34,800

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131028]

Derek Twigg: Between 1 January 2007 and 31 March 2007 Defence Ministers met with outside interest groups on the following occasions:

Secretary of State for Defence

10 January—Meeting with a representative from the Association of Teachers and Lecturers to discuss human rights issues in Columbia.

6 March—Meeting with a representative of the National Employers Advisory Board to discuss issues relating to Volunteer Reservists.

7 March—Meeting with a representative from the Transport and General Workers Union to discuss the Defence Diversification Agency.

Minister for Defence Procurement (from 6 March, Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support)

16 January—Meeting with representatives from NUMIS to provide an update on the Defence Industrial Strategy.

16 January—Meeting of the National Defence Industry Council.

7 March—The Minister was present at the Secretary of State's meeting with the Transport and General Workers Union.

27 March—Meeting of the National Defence Industry Council.

28 March—Meeting with Clyde shop stewards to discuss shipbuilding.

Under-Secretary of State

9 January—Meeting with representatives from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

9 January—Meeting with representatives from the Armed Forces Memorial Project to discuss progress with the Memorial.

18 January—Meeting with a representative from the Army Benevolent Fund.

7 February—Meeting with a representative from the Bevin Boys to discuss recognition of the Bevin Boys.

19 February—Meeting with representatives from the War Widows Association.

21 February—Meeting with representatives from the Armed Forces Committee of the British Medical Association.

21 February—Meeting with a representative from Combat Stress.

27 February—Meeting with a representative from the Armed Force Parliamentary Scheme.

28 February—Meeting with a representative from the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association.

6 March—Meeting with a representative from the Merchant Navy Association.

8 March—Meeting with a representative from the Merchant Mariners.

13 March—Meeting with a representative from Armed Forces Memorial Project.

21 March—Meeting with a representative from the Depleted Uranium Oversight Board.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have worked in field hospitals during Operation Telic; and what percentage of the total number were reservist medical personnel. [132850]

Derek Twigg: From the start of Op Telic in January 2003 to Operation Telic 9 at the end of April 2007, 2,887 individual medical specialist and non-medical support personnel have served in field hospitals in Iraq, of which some 43 per cent were reservists.

The number of service personnel who have worked in Operation Telic field hospitals is shown in the following table:

(a) Serial	*(b) Tour*[1]	*(c) Unit*	*(d) Total*[2]	*(e) Reservists*[2]	*(f) Percentage reservist*
1	Op Telic (and Op Telic 2)[3]	22 Fd Hosp	90	0	0
2	Op Telic (and Op Telic 2)[3]	33 Fd Hosp	560	4	1
3	Op Telic (and Op Telic 2)[3]	34 Fd Hosp	650	275	42
4	Op Telic (and Op Telic 2)[3]	202 Fd Hosp	680	523	77
5	Op Telic 3[4]	Hosp Sqn 22 Fd Hosp	120	44	37
6	Op Telic 4[4]	Hosp Sqn 207 Fd Hosp	127	117	92

(a) Serial	(b) Tour[3]	(c) Unit	(d) Total[1]	(e) Reservists[2]	(f) Percentage reservist
7	Op Telic 4a[4]	Hosp Sqn 256 Fd Hosp	127	108	85
8	Op Telic 5[4]	Hosp Sqn 33 Fd Hosp	116	37	32
9	Op Telic 6[4]	Hosp Sqn 205 Fd Hosp	119	92	77
10	Op Telic 7[4]	Hosp Sqn 34 Fd Hosp	112	26	23
11	Op Telic 8[4]	RAF Composite Hosp Sqn	96	3	3
12	Op Telic 9[4]	Hosp Sqn 33 Fd Hosp	90	8	9
		Total	2,887	1,237	43

[1] Includes personnel from all services (regular and reserve).
[2] Includes Reservists from RN, Army and RAF, but take no account of tour length or multiple tours by individuals.
[3] Availability of data for Telic 1 and 2 are limited. These figures are based on information supplied by personnel serving in the Command Team of the units at the time. This information has been provided on a 'best estimate' basis.
[4] The Op Telic numbering system relates to a period of time, which is approximately 6 months.
[5] Includes total liability of the Op Telic Hospital Sqn only and does not include other elms of UK Med Gp.

Mr. Mates: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of friendly fire have occurred since the coalition forces invaded Iraq in 2003. [130280]

Des Browne *[holding answer 27 March 2007]*: The number of friendly fire incidents in Iraq since 2003 is not held centrally. Friendly fire incidents could be Multinational Forces (MNF) on MNF, MNF on Iraqi Security Force (ISF) or ISF on MNF. Recorded instances of these incidents could only be aggregated from individual records, some of which we would have to request from coalition partners and the Iraqi security forces. This could only be done at disproportionate cost.

However, eight UK service personnel have died as a result of actual or suspected friendly fire incidents in Iraq since the start of Operation Telic.

Royal Military Academy: Health Services

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many presentations were made to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst by private health providers between March 2006 and March 2007. [135482]

Derek Twigg: Three presentations were made by BUPA: one to each new intake to the Regular Commissioning Course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, in May 2006, September 2006 and January 2007.

Terrorism: Birmingham

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an individual in his Department was responsible for the advance briefing given to the *Daily Mirror* newspaper in relation to the operation in Birmingham on 31 January by counter-terrorism officers of the West Midlands police. [135400]

Des Browne *[holding answer 2 May 2007]*: No.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Computers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136093]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My Office is based in a Cabinet Office building, and I therefore refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband) on 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1329W.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on how many occasions he visited India in each of the last 12 months; and what the length was of each visit. [135527]

The Deputy Prime Minister: This Government publish an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library for the reference of Members. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135741]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Subsequent to my answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 14 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1304W, in the period January to April 2007 my Department's website recorded 18,179 separate visits and 39,311 page views.

For details of costs, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 4 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 1721W.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135369]

The Deputy Prime Minister: No complaints have been made.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Delivery Unit

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what role the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit will play in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. [136314]

Hilary Armstrong: In the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit is supporting Her Majesty's Treasury to develop a practical performance monitoring and management system for new PSA targets.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the organisational chart for the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit; [136315]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the last 10 reports produced by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit. [136316]

Hilary Armstrong: Organisationally, the Unit is headed by Ian Watmore at Permanent Secretary level; three Directors lead on Education and Health, Crime and Justice, and Asylum and Migration and other projects.

The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's reports comprise confidential policy advice to the Prime Minister and Ministers, and are not published.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what funding has been allocated to the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit for 2007-08. [136327]

Hilary Armstrong: Funding details for the financial year 2007-08 are in the process of being finalised. Funding for 2006-07 is set out in the Cabinet Office annual report, to be published later this month.

Departments: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the date was of each leak inquiry initiated by the Cabinet Office since 1997; which Department was concerned in each case; and what leak was being investigated in each case. [136332]

Hilary Armstrong: Individual Departments are responsible for initiating leak inquiries relating to material from within their own Departments. The Cabinet Office has conducted 15 leak inquiries since May 1997. It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on the subject matter of leak inquiries, which might reveal specific techniques or information that could jeopardise future investigations.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, how many adult learners were studying vocational courses in Copeland in 2005-06. [133487]

Bill Rammell: The available figures for numbers of adult learners participating in Further Education in England funded by the Learning and Skills Council are shown in the following table. These figures show the numbers by sector subject Area and provided an indication of the numbers on vocational and non-vocational courses. Learners undertake a wide range of courses and it is difficult to classify all courses as either vocational or non-vocational.

Number of adult learners (Aged 19 and Over) from Copeland parliamentary constituency[1] participating in Further Education courses in England funded by the Learning and Skills Council by sector subject area for the academic year 2005/06

Sector subject areas	*Number of learners*
Health, Public Services and Care	550
Science and Mathematics	40
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	10
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	60
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	50
Information and Communication Technology	400
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	140
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	30
Arts, Media and Publishing	40
History, Philosophy and Theology	40
Social Sciences	0
Languages, Literature and Culture	20
Education and Training	30
Preparation for Life and Work	410
Business, Administration and Law	120

[1] Based on learner's home postcode

The available figures on the numbers of entrants to undergraduate courses at Higher Education Institutions are given in the following table.

Number of entrants to undergraduate courses from Copeland parliamentary constituency[1] by age and subject area UK Higher Education Institutions academic year 2005/06

Subject area	*Age*		
	Under 21	*21 and Over[2]*	*Total*
Medicine and Dentistry	0	0	5
Subjects allied to Medicine	30	125	155
Biological Sciences	25	20	40
Veterinary Science	0	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	5	10	15
Physical Sciences	20	10	30
Mathematical Sciences	5	5	10
Computer Science	25	40	65
Engineering and Technology	30	15	45

Number of entrants to undergraduate courses from Copeland parliamentary constituency[1] by age and subject area UK Higher Education Institutions academic year 2005/06

Subject area	Age Under 21	Age 21 and Over[2]	Total
Architecture, Building and Planning	5	5	5
Social Studies	35	50	85
Law	10	5	15
Business and Administrative Studies	35	45	80
Mass Communications and Documentation	10	0	10
Languages	15	10	25
Historical and Philosophical Studies	20	20	45
Creative Arts and Design	20	35	55
Education	30	25	55
Combined	30	25	60
Total	355	445	800

[1] Based on the student's home postcode.
[2] Subject areas are based on the JACS subject classification.
[3] Students aged 21 and over are classed as mature students; there is no definition specifically for adult
Notes:
The figures are based on the HESA Standard Registration Population. The figures are rounded to the nearest five students and the totals may not be equal to the sum of constituent parts.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Asperger's Syndrome

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome have statements of special educational needs. [136085]

Mr. Dhanda: The available information is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils with autistic spectrum disorder who have a statement of SEN[2,3] As at January 2007 (Provisional)—England

	Number	[5]Percentage
Primary Schools[4]	11,560	18.8
Secondary Schools[4]	7,990	11.5
All Special Schools[1]	12,380	14.2
Total	31,930	14.6

[1] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes General Hospital Schools.
[2] Pupils with statements of SEN provided information on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is given here.
[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[4] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[5] Number of pupils by their main need expressed as a percentage of all pupils with statements of SEN.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

The Department collects information on pupils' primary and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Asperger's syndrome falls within the category of Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which local education authorities in England have specialist units for Asperger's syndrome. [136117]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Department collects, via School Census, the number of schools which have special units or resourced provision. It does not, however, ask schools to specify what the area of support is. Provisional 2007 data show that there are 1,558 schools in England with a special unit or resourced provision with 21,130 pupils attending such units.

The way in which provision is organised is a matter for individual local authorities and their schools to determine in the light of local needs, priorities and resources. Similarly, decisions on which pupils should attend any such units are for the schools and local authorities to make, in the light of their individual needs and parental wishes and any special educational provision as specified in a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Children in Care: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many looked after children there were in the Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997. [121184]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of children who were looked after by the local authority of Peterborough since 1996-97 is shown in the following table.

Children looked after at 31 March by the local authority of Peterborough, 1997-2006[1,2,3,4,5] England

Number

	At 31 March: 1997[1]	1998[2]	1999[2]	2000[2]	2001[2]	2002[2]	2003[2]	2004[1]	2005[1]	2006[1]
All children looked after by the local authority of Peterborough[3,4,5]	335	350	360	390	355	335	325	335	375	365

[1] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 1996-97 and since 2003-04 cover all children looked after.
[2] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which between 1997-98 and 2002-03 only covered one-third sample.
[3] Figures at local authority level have been rounded to the nearest 5.
[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[5] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

Class Sizes: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average class sizes in Copeland *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools were in financial year (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2006-07. [136271]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: average class size[2] 1997 and 2006, position in January each year

	Copeland parliamentary constituency		England	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
1997	26.2	21.2	27.5	21.7
2006	25.5	20.5	26.3	21.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Classes taught by one teacher during a single selected period on the Census day in January.
Source:
School Census

Departmental Publications

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will publish the report commissioned by his Department entitled, "Getting It, Getting It Right"; and if he will make a statement. [117959]

Jim Knight: The Department published "Getting It, Getting It Right", a priority review on black pupil exclusions on 2 March 2007. The report is available in the House of Commons Library and at www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/ethnicminorities.

Diplomas for England

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Diplomas for England are recognised by universities and colleges as entry qualifications; and whether agreement has been reached with those institutions. [134543]

Jim Knight: All Diplomas at Level 3 are being designed to give progression routes into Higher Education including Honours Degrees. Higher Education Institutions are members of the Diploma Development Partnerships developing the qualifications and are participating in the Local Consortiums which will be delivering the Diplomas. Four champions have agreed to promote the Diplomas, two from the HE sector. Deian Hopkin, Vice Chancellor, London South Bank University and Michael Arthur, Vice Chancellor, Leeds University are working to raise awareness and improve understanding of the reforms across the HE sector.

A Higher Education Engagement Project Board with representation from each of the university groupings within the HE sector and FE has been set up to promote an understanding of the 14-19 reforms and to encourage the HE and FE sector to become involved in Diplomas. Diplomas have received "in principle" support from most HEIs. We do not expect HEIs to confirm their support until they have had the opportunity to see the content of the Diplomas in detail. The Board is also supporting a number of projects to map the Level 3 Diploma curriculums against degree courses and to illustrate progression pathways as well as working with UCAS to determine an appropriate point score.

English Language

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people are on the waiting list for English for Speakers of Other Languages in *(a)* England and *(b)* each London borough. [131009]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is not required to collect waiting list data, and as such does not ask that all providers maintain such lists. Some providers will maintain their own lists and local LSC partnership and regional LSC teams sometimes review these individual lists. We are therefore unable to provide the number of people on waiting lists nationally.

Anecdotal evidence, further supported by the recent Race Equality Impact Assessment, indicates that waiting lists in parts of the country are as much as two years in London and 18 months elsewhere.

Further Education: Construction

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans the Learning and Skills Council has to work with the Building Research Establishment on a methodology for the environmental assessment of capital development projects in the further education sector; and if he will make a statement. [134437]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The Learning and Skills Council and Building Research Establishment (BRE) have recently agreed proposals for BRE to develop a dedicated Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM) which will simplify the basis upon which FE colleges can obtain environmental assessments for their capital projects. These new arrangements should be operational by the early autumn. Colleges will be able to use BREEAM rather than commissioning individual assessments, which will bring the assessment cost down significantly from an average of £25,000 to £23,000 per project.

GCE A Level

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average A-level points score per pupil was for 11 to 18 years schools with sixth forms containing *(a)* 50 or fewer, *(b)* 51 to 100, *(c)* 101 to 150, *(d)* 151 to 200, *(e)* 201 to 250 and *(f)* more than 250 pupils in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [127637]

Jim Knight: The information requested is in the following table.

Average GCE/VCE A-Level and equivalent points score per pupil[1] by size of sixth form in England

Number of students in sixth form	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[2]
50 or fewer	200	205	571
51 to 100	257	258	704
101 to 150	301	305	791
151 to 200	304	311	808
201 to 250	307	318	825
More than 250	298	316	847

[1] 16-18 year olds. [2] The point scoring system changed in 2005-06, i.e. figures for 2005-06 are not comparable to previous years.

GCSE: Standards

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools have more than 50 per cent. of pupils receiving free school meals; and how many and what proportion of pupils in those schools did not achieve *(a)* five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics, *(b)* five A* to G grades at GCSE and *(c)* any GCSEs in the last school year for which figures are available. [133243]

Jim Knight: In 2005/06, 181 schools had more than 50 per cent. of pupils receiving free school meals. The figures[1,2] requested for these schools are given in the following table.

[1] Includes those schools with results published in the Achievement and Attainment tables.

[2] Includes all maintained schools. Independent schools are not included as this data is not readily available.

	Number	Percentage
Pupils[1] not achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE[2] including English and Mathematics GCSE	10,341	74.9
Pupils[1] not achieving 5 A*-G grades at GCSE[2] or equivalent	2,894	21.0
Pupils[1] not achieving any qualification	837	6.1

[1] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
[2] Includes GCSEs and equivalent.

International Education Strategy

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will report recent progress on the implementation proposals for the International Education strategy. [130324]

Bill Rammell: Implementation of the International Education Strategy is ongoing and there has been progress recently on a number of fronts. For example, building on the success of the first phase of the Prime Minister's Initiative (PMI) to increase student numbers by 75,000 (which was exceeded ahead of schedule), the Prime Minister last year launched a second phase with even more stretching targets to be achieved by 2011. These include an increase of a further 100,000 international students, to double the number of countries sending more than 10,000 students p.a. to the UK and to see a demonstrable improvement to student satisfaction ratings in the UK.

We are also making progress against our objectives in multilateral forums. Within the European Union, for example, we are working with other member states and the Commission to develop the role of education and skills in achieving the Lisbon goals of jobs and growth. At the EU Education Council of November 2006, a UK-driven proposal for a compendium of good practice on Higher Education won widespread support. The Commission and member states are taking forward this proposal within the framework of the EU Peer Learning Cluster on Modernizing Higher Education.

The Department remains committed to the implementation of actions under the International Strategy.

Languages

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 705W, on language courses, how many *(a)* special and *(b)* independent schools entered no pupils for a GCSE in (i) history, (ii) geography and (iii) a modern foreign language in each year since 1996. [123178]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Number of schools where no pupils[1] were entered for History GCSE

	Independent schools	Special schools[2]	Independent special schools
2006	280	831	72
2005	255	837	64
2004	276	872	71
2003	192	877	69
2002	191	880	62
2001	182	888	66
2000	191	906	63
1999	198	920	63
1998	205	910	59
1997	194	920	63

[1] Aged 15 at the beginning of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] Special schools includes community special schools, foundation special schools and non-maintained special schools.

Number of schools where no pupils[1] were entered for Geography GCSE

	Independent schools	Special schools[2]	Independent special schools
2006	297	830	72
2005	284	840	65
2004	302	863	67
2003	207	871	65
2002	207	868	57
2001	198	874	66
2000	202	895	60
1999	191	912	61
1998	201	900	56
1997	190	907	61

[1] Aged 15 at the beginning of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] Special schools includes community special schools, foundation special schools and non-maintained special schools.

Number of schools where no pupils[1] were entered for a Modern Foreign Language GCSE

	Independent schools	Special schools[2]	Independent special schools
2006	223	827	77
2005	200	830	70
2004	231	855	73
2003	119	842	71

Number of schools where no pupils were entered for a Modern Foreign Language GCSE

	Independent schools	*Special schools*[2]	*Independent special schools*
2002	121	873	62
2001	123	883	69
2000	117	899	67
1999	122	913	68
1998	135	913	60
1997	123	901	67

[1] Aged 15 at the beginning of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] Special schools includes community special schools, foundation special schools and non-maintained special schools.

Physical Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the amount of time scheduled for PE and sport during the school day that is taken up by changing; and if he will make a statement. [135389]

Jim Knight: This data have not been collected centrally. The guidance that accompanied the 2005/06 School Sport Survey advised schools that "curriculum time" was the total time provided for PE lessons during the school day. This included changing time but not travelling time.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what advice his Department has issued to *(a)* schools and *(b)* school sports co-ordinators on the collection of data on the number of school children who take part in a minimum of two hours of PE or sport in school time; and if he will make a statement; [135390]

(2) who is responsible for *(a)* supplying, *(b)* compiling and *(c)* verifying the data on the number of school children who take part in a minimum of two hours of PE or sport in school time each week; and if he will make a statement. [135392]

Jim Knight: The Department has commissioned TNS, an independent research company, to conduct the annual school sport surveys. Data are supplied by schools and partnership development managers and compiled by TNS. A validation exercise is carried out by TNS.

A copy of the 2005-06 school sport survey guidance has been placed in the House Library.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of PE lessons cancelled each year as a result of *(a)* examinations, *(b)* exam preparation, *(c)* poor weather and *(d)* facility use clashes; and if he will make a statement. [135391]

Jim Knight: This data have not been collected centrally. Schools have a duty to teach the full programmes of study set out in the PE national curriculum to all pupils. It is for them to decide how they arrange the timetable to achieve this.

Public Service Agreements

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which statistics are used to determine whether his Department's public service agreement (PSA) targets have been met, broken down by PSA target; and which of these are classified as national statistics. [115345]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 15 January 2007]:* The Department for Education and Skills public service agreement incorporates technical notes which contain information about the statistics used to monitor progress towards meeting the Department's PSA targets. The Agreement can be accessed using the following URL:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/SR2004/PSA/

A report by the independent Statistics Commission entitled "PSA Targets: the Devil in the Detail," which was published on 20 March 2006, contains an independent analysis of each Department's PSA targets. Copies of that report are available in the Library of the House and can also be accessed using the following URL:

http://www.statscom.org.Uk/C_467.aspx

Pupils: Intimidation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 on schools' policies on bullying; [134774]

(2) what assessment he has made of the Education and Skills Select Committee's recent recommendations to require schools to record all incidents of bullying together with details about the type of bullying; [134806]

(3) what assessment he has made of the merits of issuing non-compulsory guidelines for schools on drawing-up policies against specific types of bullying. [134807]

Jim Knight: The Department has not carried out a specific assessment of the impact of the Sexual Orientation Regulations on schools' bullying policies. However, the Regulations will ensure schools tackle homophobic bullying as seriously as other forms of bullying. We will clarify how the Regulations apply to school bullying policies in our forthcoming guidance "Preventing and Responding to Homophobic Bullying".

We are currently considering all the Education and Skills Select Committee's recommendations, including that to require schools to record all incidents of bullying, and will issue a formal response very soon.

On the merits of issuing non-compulsory guidelines for schools, head teachers are under a statutory duty to determine measures to prevent all forms of bullying. The Department took a deliberate decision not to make its anti-bullying guidance statutory, or for that matter legally require schools to sign up to the Anti-Bullying Charter. We believe it is better to work with schools to encourage them to take ownership of their policies, and to tailor them to their own needs and

circumstances. We recommend that, as best practice, schools consult the entire school community, including parents and pupils, in drawing up their behaviour policies, and indeed they are now under a legal requirement to do so under the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Ofsted reported in 2003 that most schools make good use of DfES anti-bullying guidance, and use the materials to raise staff awareness, revisit anti-bullying policies and strengthen their procedures. Our current overarching guidance to schools on tackling bullying, "Don't Suffer in Silence" was externally evaluated by researchers from Goldsmiths College London in 2003, who found that the pack met schools' expectations and helped in drawing up their anti-bullying policies.

School Meals

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 130-1W, on school meals, what proportion of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, attending secondary schools falling within each percentage point in terms of the proportion of pupils attending the school who are eligible for free school meals, achieved five or more GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics in 2006. [119176]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Schools: Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* manufacturers, *(b)* suppliers and *(c)* installers of roof-mounted microgeneration technologies for the Eco-Schools programme; [136513]

(2) what plans he has to encourage the awarding of contracts to accredited or TrustMark affiliated contractors for the Eco-Schools programme; and if he will make a statement; [136514]

(3) what discussions he has had with representatives of the roofing industry on the construction of eco-friendly roofs as part of the Eco-Schools programme; and if he will make a statement. [136515]

Jim Knight: The hon. Gentleman's questions refer to an "Eco-Schools" programme.

The only Eco-Schools programme that we are aware of is one for existing schools which results in three levels of award to acknowledge increasing levels of pupil involvement in a range of environmental issues. The Department is not involved in running this Eco-Schools programme[1].

The Department and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) have, however, been involved in discussions with manufacturers, suppliers and installers of roof-mounted microgeneration technologies. The DTI has also recently made grant funding available for the installation of these technologies in existing schools within the Low Carbon Buildings Programme[2]. In addition, it is already a requirement of Building Regulations that all new school buildings over 1,000 m^2 in area should consider the use of microgeneration and some regional and local planning policies require new schools of this size to install on-site renewable energy to supply a proportion (typically 10 per cent.) of the predicted building's energy load. Furthermore, on 10 April this year the Secretary of State for Education and Skills announced that:

"We're already rebuilding and refurbishing every Secondary School in the country and, as part of this programme, we will put £110 million over the next three years to test a bold aim—even higher standards for new and refurbished schools to reduce their carbon emissions, in some cases up to carbon neutrality."

DfES has made it a condition of funding for our capital programmes that "BREEAM Schools[3]" assessments are carried out for all major new and refurbishment projects above a certain size. "BREEAM Schools" awards credits for good environmental practices of contractors and good environmental performance of building elements, including roofs. DfES and CIRIA have also recently produced a guide "Sustainable Water Management in Schools" which encourages designers to use eco-friendly roofs to harvest rainwater.

[1] www.eco-schools.org.uk

[2] http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/micro/

[3] http://www.breeam.org/schools.html

Schools: Eating Disorders

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to tackle the development of eating disorders by children through interventions in schools. [126621]

Jim Knight: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 6 March, *Official Report*, column 1918W.

Schools: National Anthems

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his Department's policy is on the singing of the national anthem in schools. [134621]

Jim Knight: Singing is an integral part of the National Curriculum for Music from Key Stages 1 to 3. At each stage teachers are required to introduce a range of music from different times and cultures. It is for schools to decide whether singing the National Anthem will meet the needs of their pupils in respect of the requirements for Music. Learning about the national anthem may also be included in Citizenship which became statutory for 11-16 year olds in September 2002.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of schools which have been awarded the Active Mark scheme by the Youth Sport Trust; and if he will make a statement. [135394]

Jim Knight: 50 per cent. (7,049) of the primary schools taking part in the annual school sport survey in 2005/06 met the standard and were awarded Activemark 2006. The award is only available to primary schools plus special schools and Pupil Referral Units which have primary aged pupils.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many schools have been in special measures for two years or more; [136427]

(2) how many schools have been in either serious weaknesses or special measures for two years or more; and how many pupils attend such schools. [136428]

Jim Knight: There are currently four schools that have been in special measures for two years or more. The total number of pupils in these schools is 2,461.

The serious weakness category was replaced by a new category of requiring significant improvement under revised procedures for schools causing concern from September 2005. 18 schools which have yet to be inspected under the revised procedures have been in serious weakness category for two years or more. There are 6,025 pupils in these schools.

Science: Publicity

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what financial support his Department gives to *(a)* science centres and *(b)* other projects which (i) promote (A) science, (B) engineering and (C) technology to the general public and (ii) are involved in adding value to the teaching of those subjects in schools. [136250]

Jim Knight: The Department provided £1 million, as part of a £2 million joint DfES/DTI funding package, to science centres in 2004-06 to help alleviate short term funding problems.

Since then the Department has paid a further £250,000, as part of a £750,000 joint DfES/DTI funding package over the period 2006-08, for ECSITE-UK to work with the science centres to:

demonstrate their impact and the added-value they deliver;

encourage the centres to work more effectively together, and collaboratively with museums, SETNET, Science Learning Centres and Science Cities; and,

maximise their future financial viability.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Programme Report, published in October 2006, arose from the recommendations of the 2004 STEM Mapping Review. Its aim is to bring coherence and co-ordination to the many initiatives identified during the review, and to address any gaps in policy. The programme is working to reinforce the priorities set out in the Government's "Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-14: Next Steps" DfES funded projects that promote science, engineering and technology to the general public, or are involved in adding value to the teaching of those subjects in schools include:

a £51 million partnership with the Wellcome Trust to set up a national network of Science Learning Centres providing professional development for science teachers and technicians

a £5 million initiative to pilot 250 after school science and engineering clubs offering an engaging and stretching programme of activities to Key Stage 3 pupils with interest and potential in science.

more than £2 million to the CADCAM programme, managed by the Design and Technology Association, which provides training and support for teachers to use industrial design software in secondary schools. An estimated £10million worth of software has been donated to UK schools by software companies

£125,000 support to the Engineering Education scheme, run by the Engineering Development Trust, working with young people to increase the number of students experiencing the benefits of engineering, science and technology.

increasing the value of the teacher training bursary for science graduates to £9,000 and increasing the 'Golden Hello' for new science teachers to £5,000 for trainees entering PGCE and equivalent courses.

implementing the recommendations of the School Teachers' Review Body on improving the use of current pay incentives and flexibilities to improve the recruitment, retention and quality of science teachers.

introducing a new statutory entitlement for all students to study science courses leading to at least two GCSEs, to come into effect from September 2007.

making GCSEs in the individual sciences of physics, chemistry and biology accessible to all pupils achieving at least level 6 or above at Key Stage 3, from September 2008.

reviewing the secondary curriculum to make it more manageable and focus on the key conceptual underpinnings of science, as well as its excitement and relevance. The revised Key Stage 3 science curriculum will be introduced into schools for first teaching from September 2008.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* professional development and *(b)* technical assistance the Department plans to provide to schools for the implementation of the secondary curriculum review's findings. [136360]

Jim Knight: We are developing a comprehensive package of communications, training and support for teachers, subject leaders and head teachers. This will be delivered both face to face and online by a range of partners, including the professional subject associations, National Strategies and the National College of School Leadership.

Professional development will begin in June and July, with nine high-level regional events run by the QCA for local authorities, school leaders, deputies and curriculum managers. These will be followed up by a series of DfES events in the autumn which will set the new curriculum in the context of wider changes, 11-19, and explain what schools need to do next and what support is available.

In September 2007, the QCA will launch a new website for the revised secondary curriculum which will enable teachers, deputy heads and curriculum managers to link areas of learning across subjects. It will provide cross-references to information outside the curriculum and offer a wide range of supporting material in easily accessible ways.

As well as the revised Programmes of Study, the website will include information about the curriculum aims; inclusion; personal development and skills across all subjects. Teachers will be able to use interactive features to track areas of learning such as sustainability, diversity, enterprise and creativity across the curriculum, and there will be on-line support for curriculum planning and assessment. Throughout the site, there will be links to explanatory text, supporting guidance, teaching materials and case studies.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1575W, on secondary education: curriculum, what the evidential basis was for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's decision to reduce the amount of specific and particular subject content in the secondary curriculum review programmes of study. [136361]

Jim Knight: The QCA's advice to reduce the amount of specific and particular subject content in the secondary curriculum programmes of study was in line with the remit given in February 2005.

Reducing the amount of subject content will increase opportunities for learners to secure the functional skills required for life and work. It will create the flexibility to stretch more able learners and ensure that those at risk of falling behind are able to catch up.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1575W, (1) on secondary education: curriculum, what the main principles of effective teaching identified by the review of research into effective teaching carried out in the preparation of the secondary curriculum review were; [136388]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1575W, on secondary education: curriculum, whether the Qualification and Curriculum Authority has established causal links between the principles of effective teaching it has identified and cognitive outcomes; [136341]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1575W, on secondary education: curriculum, what documents containing evidence on the principles of effective teaching were taken into consideration by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in the preparation of the secondary curriculum review *(a)* programmes of study and *(b)* supporting guidance. [136342]

Jim Knight: In preparing for the secondary curriculum review the QCA considered evidence from research and reports into effective teaching produced by: Ofsted; various specialist subject and professional associations; national agencies, such as national strategies; and others. Documents containing evidence on the principles of effective teaching are available on the websites of each of these organisations.

In the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1575W, on secondary education: curriculum, 10 specific principles of effective learning were referenced. The 10 principles are that:

> students learn more when they are engaged actively during an instructional task;
>
> high success rates (and to a less certain extent, moderate success rates) are correlated positively with student learning outcomes and low success rates are correlated negatively with student learning outcomes;
>
> increased opportunity to learn content is correlated, positively with increased student achievement. Therefore the more content covered, the greater the potential for student learning;
>
> students achieve more in classes in which they spend much of their time being directly taught or supervised by their teacher.
>
> In general, teacher instructional time that is spent with large groups is correlated positively with student achievement;
>
> students can become independent, self-regulated learners through instruction that is deliberately and carefully scaffolded;
>
> the critical forms of knowledge associated with strategic learning are (a) declarative knowledge, (b) procedural knowledge, and (c) conditional knowledge. Each of these must be addressed if students are to become independent, self-regulated learners;
>
> learning is increased when teaching is presented in a manner that assists students in organising, storing and retrieving knowledge;
>
> students can become more independent, self-regulated learners through strategic instruction;
>
> students can become independent, self-regulated learners through instruction that is explicit;
>
> by teaching sameness both within and across subjects, teachers promote the ability of students to access potentially relevant knowledge in novel problem-solving situations.

The document containing these principles, by Ellis, E.S., Worthington., L. A. and Larkin, MJ. (1996) is entitled "Research synthesis on effective teaching principles and the design of quality tools". It is produced by the Worthington National Centre to Improve the Tools of Educators.

Statistics

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the process is for deciding the date of publication of statistics prepared by or relating to the Department; and who is involved in that process. [113088]

Jim Knight: The National Statistics Code of Practice (2002)—which serves as a model for all public sector statistical work—established the principle that

> "final responsibility for the content, format and timing of release of National Statistics"

rests with the Head of Profession for Statistics in each Department. The Head of Profession has published a statement describing how the Department's release practices comply with the Release Practice Protocol. This can be accessed at:

> http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/compliance06.pdf.

In reaching their decisions, Heads of Profession take into consideration the detailed procedural guidance given in the "National Statistics Protocol on Release Practices".

Copies of the code and its 12 supporting protocols are available in the Library of the House and can also be accessed using the following address:

> http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/national_statistics/cop/default.asp

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which statistics released by his Department and its agencies are classified as *(a)* national statistics and *(b)* official statistics; and if he will make a statement. [112470]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 January 2007]:* A list of the titles of all of the National Statistics produced by each Department and Agency was placed in the Library of the House on 8 January 2007 to accompany the Second Reading of the Statistics and Registration

Bill. An equivalent list was also placed on the National Statistics website. These lists can be accessed using the following URL:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/ns_onv/nsproducts/default.asp

In addition to National Statistics, the Department for Education and Skills publishes a wide range of other numerical information in a variety of forms including other data produced from the management and administration of the Department and in research reports. There is no centrally held information on the total published.

Teachers: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many *(a)* primary school teachers, *(b)* primary school teaching assistants, *(c)* secondary school teachers and *(d)* secondary school teaching assistants were employed in Copeland in financial year (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2006-07; [136268]

(2) what the pupil to teacher ratio in Copeland *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools was in financial year (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2006-07. [136270]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the full-time equivalent number of regular teachers and teaching assistants employed in maintained primary and secondary schools and the pupil to teacher ratios in Copeland constituency, January 1997 and 2006 which is the latest information available at constituency level.

Full-time equivalent number of regular teachers and teaching[1] assistants employed in maintained primary and secondary schools and the pupil/teacher ratios in Copeland constituency, January 1997 and 2006

	Primary			Secondary		
	Regular teachers	Teaching assistants[1]	PTR[2]	Regular teachers	Teaching assistants[1]	PTR[2]
1997	366	67	24.9	402	4	17.4
2006	388	221	22.0	474	62	16.8

[1] Teaching assistant figures includes teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.
[2] The within school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.
[3] For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 FTE.
Source:
Annual School Census

Young People: Unemployment

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* 16 year olds, *(b)* 17 year olds and *(c)* 18 year olds in each local education authority area were not in employment, education or training in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [135319]

Jim Knight: The following table gives the number and proportion of *(a)*16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18 year olds not in education, employment or training by local authority in England, for December 2005 and 2006.

Data are drawn from the operational client management systems maintained by Connexions services. They only include those people known to the service (about 85 per cent. of the population); some young people who attended independent schools or were at school outside England are excluded. The age relates to those of calendar year age 16-18 on the date of measurement. Data are only available at the local authority level from 2005.

These NEET measures are those used for setting and monitoring local authority NEET targets. The definition differs from that used to measure the national departmental PSA NEET target. Along with not covering the entire population, the Connexions NEET measure excludes those on gap years, those in custody and those undertaking voluntary work. The PSA measure is for academic rather than calendar age 16-18.

It is estimated that 220,000 (11 per cent.) 16 to 18 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET) at the end of 2005. Not all of these young people are out of work—the figures include young people taking a break from study, caring for families, or simply between jobs or courses. Annual surveys carried out on a group of young people at ages 16, 17 and 18 found that nearly 20 per cent. were NEET at one of the three survey dates, while only around 1 per cent. were NEET at each of the three survey points.

Record numbers of 16 year olds are in full-time education. But, we recognise the need to take action to reduce the proportion of young people not in any form of education, employment or training, and have set ourselves a very challenging target to get the proportion down to 8 per cent. by 2010.

Our 14-19 reforms are vital: the implementation plan makes a commitment to make an offer of learning to every young person after they complete year 11. They also give us the platform for agencies working with young people to plan and develop learning and employment opportunities that meet local needs.

To keep them in learning, we need to help them tackle the other issues in their lives that might cause them to leave, which we are doing through our Every Child Matters reforms.

Number and proportion of 16 to 18 year olds NEET by local authority as at December 2005 and 2006

	Number						Percentage					
	(a) 16 year olds		(b) 17 year olds		(c) 18 year olds		(a) 16 year olds		(b) 17 year olds		(c) 18 year olds	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
South East												
Bracknell Forest	50	30	100	60	80	80	7.7	4.8	9.1	6.0	7.7	6.5
Reading	140	90	210	160	190	130	11.0	7.2	10.8	8.5	9.2	5.1
Windsor and Maidenhead	40	30	70	60	70	50	4.1	4.2	4.8	4.3	5.4	3.9
Slough	100	60	140	90	150	90	10.0	5.8	8.0	5.6	9.0	4.8

Number and proportion of 16 to 18 year olds NEET by local authority as at December 2005 and 2006

	Number						Percentage					
	(a) 16 year olds		(b) 17 year olds		(c) 18 year olds		(a) 16 year olds		(b) 17 year olds		(c) 18 year olds	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
West Berkshire	70	60	120	90	90	90	5.6	4.7	6.7	4.9	5.7	6.0
Wokingham	50	40	90	50	80	60	5.8	5.4	6.5	4.3	5.2	5.4
Kent	710	640	1,230	1,140	950	1,190	6.1	5.4	7.0	6.6	5.5	6.9
Medway	190	130	350	290	280	240	7.3	5.0	9.1	7.7	7.6	6.1
Buckinghamshire	100	90	210	160	220	190	2.7	2.4	3.9	2.9	4.4	3.8
Milton Keynes	130	100	220	180	200	180	7.2	5.5	7.8	6.5	7.2	6.2
Oxfordshire	200	230	370	330	320	330	4.4	5.2	5.3	4.6	4.8	4.7
Portsmouth	150	90	220	200	160	180	14.5	9.7	13.8	12.1	7.9	8.8
Southampton	190	180	340	250	190	230	11.4	10.5	13.0	9.9	7.3	8.8
Isle of Wight	70	60	90	100	80	110	6.5	5.6	5.5	6.2	4.9	6.2
Hampshire	580	570	810	850	530	800	5.5	5.4	5.1	5.5	3.4	5.3
Surrey	250	250	410	360	340	310	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.9
Brighton and Hove	170	150	290	280	290	290	9.6	9.4	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.8
East Sussex	280	250	450	460	440	490	7.4	6.7	8.1	8.3	8.1	9.1
West Sussex	260	240	440	390	370	420	4.4	3.9	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.9
London												
Camden	80	80	180	140	190	160	5.6	7.4	9.7	7.0	10.9	8.1
Islington	120	110	250	210	260	210	7.3	7.7	10.5	8.7	11.7	8.6
Kensington and Chelsea	30	40	70	80	90	80	7.8	7.5	9.3	8.8	10.3	8.0
Lambeth	140	100	300	200	350	210	12.1	11.1	15.3	10.9	17.0	10.1
Southwark	120	120	290	250	320	230	10.7	9.4	15.3	12.9	14.3	11.5
Wandsworth	90	80	180	150	180	160	6.1	5.2	7.2	6.2	6.9	6.2
Westminster	110	50	140	100	130	110	10.3	5.8	8.2	6.6	7.1	7.0
Barking and Dagenham	180	160	290	280	250	290	12.4	9.4	13.4	11.8	11.6	12.3
Bexley	150	140	230	180	220	140	7.7	8.4	8.2	6.7	7.9	5.3
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	10	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
Greenwich	180	170	350	280	370	360	10.9	10.2	13.1	11.0	12.8	13.1
Hackney	130	120	280	240	330	290	11.7	10.9	17.2	13.3	18.8	13.1
Havering	150	130	270	230	200	200	7.0	5.5	7.9	6.4	5.8	5.5
Lewisham	140	60	260	190	260	230	7.9	3.7	10.0	6.8	9.0	8.0
Newham	210	210	360	360	310	380	9.5	10.2	10.6	11.1	9.1	11.0
Redbridge	130	90	200	180	230	180	5.7	3.8	6.3	5.1	6.8	5.5
Tower Hamlets	150	130	300	280	410	290	9.1	7.9	11.4	12.0	15.2	12.6
Barnet	120	120	210	160	260	230	5.3	4.6	5.9	3.8	7.0	5.5
Enfield	180	140	320	250	320	300	7.3	5.7	8.5	6.6	8.3	7.8
Haringey	140	130	270	230	290	270	9.0	11.4	11.5	12.2	11.8	12.5
Waltham Forest	100	120	230	230	200	170	4.9	5.3	6.8	7.1	6.1	5.9
Bromley	90	100	210	190	190	200	3.7	4.1	5.5	5.0	5.5	5.2
Croydon	210	170	370	310	340	350	8.4	6.8	9.6	8.3	9.1	8.8
Kingston	40	30	70	80	80	70	2.9	2.2	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.4
Merton	60	40	80	80	80	70	8.8	6.5	7.2	7.5	6.5	5.5
Richmond	40	30	50	60	60	50	4.8	4.2	3.9	4.7	3.5	3.8
Sutton	70	70	150	120	150	140	4.1	4.2	5.5	4.6	6.1	5.3
Brent	60	60	140	140	160	230	3.5	4.8	5.0	5.5	5.7	8.3
Ealing	100	100	210	180	200	220	6.8	7.0	8.2	7.9	7.4	8.2
Hammersmith and Fulham	130	50	170	120	170	130	22.9	7.2	15.8	9.8	13.4	8.8
Harrow	80	40	140	130	150	170	5.1	2.5	5.4	5.2	5.8	6.5
Hillingdon	180	140	350	220	280	340	8.6	6.3	8.5	6.3	7.5	8.2
Hounslow	110	100	200	210	230	270	5.8	6.5	6.7	7.9	8.6	8.9
East of England												
Bedfordshire	210	190	340	310	360	360	6.6	6.0	7.0	6.5	7.7	7.5
Luton	100	100	240	210	260	280	6.2	6.4	8.9	8.9	9.7	10.9
Cambridgeshire	220	200	350	340	370	330	5.1	4.8	5.6	5.3	6.2	5.2
Peterborough	140	110	270	230	260	270	8.8	6.4	10.7	9.1	11.2	11.6

Number and proportion of 16 to 18 year olds NEET by local authority as at December 2005 and 2006

	Number						Percentage					
	(a) 16 year olds		(b) 17 year olds		(c) 18 year olds		(a) 16 year olds		(b) 17 year olds		(c) 18 year olds	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Essex	850	610	1,360	1,120	1,240	1,130	8.2	5.7	8.8	7.3	8.0	7.1
Thurrock	140	90	200	180	180	160	9.1	6.0	9.2	8.1	8.7	8.0
Southend	120	100	230	210	200	220	6.2	5.2	8.3	7.1	8.7	8.4
Hertfordshire	420	360	700	590	620	640	4.6	3.9	5.0	4.3	4.8	4.8
Norfolk	410	470	750	770	710	790	6.6	7.1	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.3
Suffolk	370	370	670	650	690	710	6.9	6.9	8.3	8.2	9.0	9.0
South West												
Bournemouth	90	110	150	140	110	140	8.0	9.2	9.4	8.0	6.5	8.1
Dorset	170	200	240	290	240	280	6.0	6.5	5.8	6.8	6.1	7.0
Poole	60	90	120	90	100	90	5.2	7.2	7.4	5.2	5.8	5.3
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	280	230	430	400	470	460	6.4	5.1	6.6	6.1	7.6	7.3
Devon	310	300	520	530	440	450	5.8	5.2	6.5	6.5	5.7	5.8
Plymouth	180	140	310	270	300	280	7.4	6.2	8.3	7.4	7.7	7.5
Torbay	60	80	110	130	100	100	5.1	7.2	5.9	7.4	6.0	5.6
Gloucestershire	240	210	460	360	510	380	4.8	4.3	6.0	4.8	6.9	5.2
Somerset	220	180	360	300	290	260	5.3	4.3	5.7	4.9	4.8	4.6
Bath and North East Somerset	70	50	120	100	120	120	4.9	3.4	5.5	4.1	5.8	4.6
Bristol	200	180	450	350	370	410	7.9	6.0	10.9	7.6	8.5	8.8
North Somerset	60	60	100	90	110	100	4.5	4.4	4.4	5.0	5.3	5.0
South Gloucestershire	110	90	180	150	150	140	5.2	5.6	5.7	5.9	4.9	5.0
Swindon	90	140	190	210	130	230	5.5	7.8	7.3	8.0	5.1	8.3
Wiltshire	180	210	250	270	210	240	6.1	6.5	5.9	5.9	4.9	5.1
West Midlands												
Birmingham	980	780	1,690	1,460	1,880	1,630	12.4	8.4	13.9	11.4	15.4	13.4
Solihull	200	150	310	260	370	260	8.2	7.4	8.4	7.9	10.5	7.7
Dudley	260	220	340	340	320	270	9.0	6.3	8.3	6.5	7.7	6.0
Sandwell	310	230	400	470	330	440	12.9	13.5	11.3	18.5	8.5	14.5
Walsall	240	190	400	350	320	320	10.6	8.0	11.3	9.8	9.1	9.0
Wolverhampton	210	210	430	380	370	340	10.0	10.0	12.6	11.6	10.8	9.9
Coventry	200	190	390	360	390	380	7.1	6.7	9.5	8.7	9.4	9.5
Warwickshire	250	280	400	440	370	450	5.8	6.2	6.3	6.8	6.1	7.2
Herefordshire	70	70	170	100	140	120	5.1	4.9	8.3	5.3	7.3	5.9
Worcestershire	250	180	430	350	390	340	5.8	4.1	6.8	5.6	6.6	5.6
Shropshire	120	80	190	180	160	170	5.4	3.8	6.0	5.4	5.1	5.3
Telford and Wrekin	120	130	180	200	210	200	8.4	8.7	8.2	9.2	9.8	9.1
Staffordshire	410	390	710	730	770	890	6.1	5.7	7.1	7.2	8.0	8.8
Stoke on Trent	270	230	530	530	550	610	12.9	11.1	15.5	15.9	16.7	17.7
East Midlands												
Derby	190	150	340	310	310	240	8.5	7.0	10.3	9.5	9.6	7.8
Derbyshire	370	330	660	540	620	560	7.4	6.2	8.6	6.9	7.8	7.2
Leicester	270	260	540	480	440	500	9.2	9.0	12.1	10.6	10.0	10.9
Leicestershire	300	280	470	390	410	390	6.2	5.4	6.7	5.4	5.8	5.6
Lincolnshire	320	260	510	450	450	460	5.7	4.5	6.1	5.3	5.8	5.6
Rutland	—	10	—	—	—	—	0.5	4.5	0.9	1.8	1.3	1.7
Northamptonshire	400	310	660	530	710	550	7.1	5.5	7.9	6.3	8.8	6.7
Nottinghamshire	330	290	480	480	430	460	5.0	4.6	4.9	5.1	4.5	5.0
Nottingham	190	200	350	340	370	380	7.9	6.9	9.8	7.6	10.2	8.8
Yorks and The Humber												
East Riding of Yorkshire	100	130	210	250	190	220	5.1	4.6	6.1	6.0	5.7	5.5

Number and proportion of 16 to 18 year olds NEET by local authority as at December 2005 and 2006

	Number						*Percentage*					
	(a) 16 year olds		*(b) 17 year olds*		*(c) 18 year olds*		*(a) 16 year olds*		*(b) 17 year olds*		*(c) 18 year olds*	
	2005	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*
Kingston upon Hull	270	240	570	500	620	550	11.5	10.5	13.6	14.6	14.4	14.8
North East Lincolnshire	120	140	260	260	270	220	8.4	8.5	9.9	10.9	10.1	8.5
North Lincolnshire	80	110	200	210	210	240	5.5	7.6	8.4	9.2	9.0	10.0
Barnsley	240	190	410	340	320	370	13.3	10.1	14.7	13.2	11.5	12.8
Doncaster	330	310	500	480	400	370	12.8	11.9	12.6	12.7	10.0	9.7
Rotherham	250	270	400	430	320	420	9.9	9.6	10.6	10.9	8.8	11.5
Sheffield	390	320	680	620	680	680	9.7	8.3	10.8	10.3	10.8	11.2
Bradford	370	380	690	630	740	540	9.5	9.6	11.4	10.5	11.9	9.0
Calderdale	110	120	260	210	270	300	6.3	7.5	10.3	8.9	10.5	11.9
Kirklees	310	290	530	520	580	620	8.3	7.7	9.4	9.6	10.5	11.6
Leeds	570	510	970	880	950	820	9.3	8.4	10.5	9.8	10.5	9.3
Wakefield	350	290	550	520	380	380	12.6	10.0	13.1	11.8	9.3	8.7
York	90	100	140	140	130	140	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.5	5.8
North Yorkshire	190	190	360	290	300	320	4.1	4.0	5.2	4.2	4.8	4.8
North West												
Cheshire	330	290	470	490	460	430	5.6	5.0	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.0
Warrington	120	90	200	180	190	170	6.6	5.6	7.8	7.4	7.6	7.1
Cumbria	220	200	390	300	470	400	5.4	4.6	6.4	4.8	7.8	6.8
Bolton	270	300	450	440	390	440	10.3	13.8	11.4	13.3	10.0	11.8
Bury	130	140	220	210	200	190	7.9	8.5	8.1	8.2	7.8	7.2
City of Manchester	430	390	760	650	640	700	11.3	10.1	12.8	11.5	11.0	11.8
Oldham	160	170	280	280	260	270	7.0	8.3	7.6	8.9	7.3	8.1
Rochdale	190	160	330	290	280	240	10.2	12.3	11.2	13.6	9.5	9.7
Salford	180	180	320	340	210	210	9.4	10.2	11.0	12.7	7.9	7.3
Stockport	140	200	250	280	210	300	6.3	8.5	6.9	8.2	5.9	8.8
Trafford	110	110	190	180	170	180	5.7	6.5	6.3	7.3	5.7	6.8
Tameside	180	170	300	280	230	230	8.4	8.9	9.1	9.7	7.0	7.6
Wigan	280	280	420	440	430	420	10.5	9.9	9.8	10.4	9.6	9.2
Halton	80	110	190	180	220	230	7.6	10.1	11.2	10.9	12.3	13.0
Knowsley	110	130	220	250	320	300	8.1	11.1	10.3	13.4	15.0	14.7
Liverpool	370	370	760	760	880	920	8.9	9.5	11.9	13.4	14.2	15.4
Sefton	170	140	310	300	330	390	6.4	4.9	7.9	7.1	8.6	9.2
St. Helens	160	130	270	250	260	290	11.4	7.4	11.9	9.8	11.5	11.6
Wirral	180	240	460	420	470	530	6.1	8.1	9.8	9.4	10.5	11.3
Blackburn with Darwen	110	130	260	210	260	250	7.9	5.4	11.6	6.6	11.5	8.6
Blackpool	130	140	280	230	210	250	9.4	7.3	14.2	8.7	10.9	10.6
Lancashire	660	630	1,200	1,050	1,100	1,150	6.9	7.0	8.3	7.9	7.8	8.3
North East												
Durham	440	410	780	740	880	900	11.8	10.3	13.2	12.7	14.5	14.6
Northumberland	180	170	360	360	400	440	7.5	6.7	9.6	10.2	10.9	11.9
Darlington	80	60	160	130	130	120	7.6	4.6	9.8	6.9	8.8	7.7
Stockton-on-Tees	160	110	270	220	280	270	9.0	7.5	9.8	9.9	10.2	11.1
Middlesbrough	170	140	350	290	360	450	12.8	9.3	16.4	12.4	16.4	17.9
Hartlepool	80	70	130	160	160	200	9.0	6.9	9.3	12.5	11.9	14.0
Redcar and Cleveland	110	130	230	200	250	280	8.2	9.6	10.9	10.4	12.0	14.3
Sunderland	290	250	510	490	570	580	11.8	10.3	13.3	13.2	14.4	15.3
Gateshead	160	140	320	260	330	350	10.6	9.7	13.5	11.7	14.8	14.7
Newcastle upon Tyne	250	250	470	410	430	460	9.1	8.2	10.8	9.3	10.1	10.3

Number and proportion of 16 to 18 year olds NEET by local authority as at December 2005 and 2006

	Number						Percentage					
	(a) 16 year olds		(b) 17 year olds		(c) 18 year olds		(a) 16 year olds		(b) 17 year olds		(c) 18 year olds	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
North Tyneside	160	140	290	250	260	300	10.3	9.2	12.0	11.6	10.3	12.8
South Tyneside	120	100	260	200	320	240	10.5	8.2	14.0	11.2	15.7	12.4

Notes:
1. Data provided by Connexions and relate to the young person's actual age at the end of December each year.
2. 16 to 18 year olds in education are counted in the area in which their education establishment is located (except those in HE).
3. 16 to 18 year olds known to be undertaking a gap year, or in custody, are not recorded by Connexions as NEET.
4. The percentage NEET includes an adjustment for young people whose current activity is not known.

Source:
Connexions Services

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers had not received their pre-populated single payment scheme application form for 2007 by 1 May; and if he will make a statement. [136510]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 9 May 2007]*: Approximately 121,700 SPS 2007 application forms were despatched well before our published target for despatch of mid-April to all SPS 2006 claimants and those who activated entitlements in SPS 2005. A further 2,190 forms have been sent out following ad hoc requests. As of 27 April 2007 almost 31,700 had been returned. Deadline for return is 15 May 2007.

Animals: Transport

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures are in place to ensure that the journey logs required by Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations are returned to his Department within one month of the completion of the journey; and what steps officials in his Department take to examine returned journey logs in order to identify (*a*) breaches of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 and (*b*) unjustified differences between actual and proposed itineraries. [135951]

Mr. Bradshaw: Journey logs must be returned to the Animal Health Divisional Office (AHDO) within 30 days of the completion of the journey. If this does not occur, AHDO staff write to the organiser of the journey, requesting the journey logs to be returned within five working days.

All returned journey logs are checked by AHDO staff to see if the actual journey undertaken matches the planned details. Any deviations are identified and investigated, taking into account the transporter's explanation.

Cattle: Exports

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many live calves have been exported for further fattening since 1 January, broken down by country of destination. [135905]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of calves aged under 42 days exported between 1 January and 30 April 2007 are as follows:

Destination country	*Number of calves*
Belgium	7,906
Denmark	1
France	5,913
Netherlands	17,930
Spain	5,384
Total	37,134

The information is based on export notifications received to date and registered on the Cattle Tracing System. The figures do not identify animals by health certification status, for example whether the animals were exported for slaughter, further fattening or breeding.

Departments: Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members for oral answer by his Department on 19 April 2007, were subsequently transferred by his Department to other departments; and for what reasons they were transferred. [133662]

Barry Gardiner: My Department received 25 questions for oral answer on Thursday 19 April. Five of those questions were transferred to the Government Department responsible for the policy and which this Department could therefore not answer.

The hon. Member tabled a question on the acreage of land prone to flooding that would be developed with housing during the next five years. The question was transferred to DCLG as it leads on national planning policy.

Two identical questions were tabled on the Code for Sustainable Housing. The code concerns the introduction of higher environmental standards for new buildings and new homes. Responsibility for that and for planning housing and Building Regulations lies with the DCLG and the questions were therefore transferred to that Department.

A question relating to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from the aviation sector was transferred to the Department for Transport as that Department is responsible for helping the aviation industry to reduce its environmental impacts.

A question relating to the proportion of domestic biofuel consumption was also transferred to DFT. That Department is co-ordinating the assessment of the energy and other implications of the large scale use of biofuels.

Seven hon. Members 'unstarred' their questions for answer on 19 April and one withdrew his question. Two hon. Members were not present on the day to ask their question so the Department had 10 questions to answer on the day.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to his Department for oral answer have been transferred to other departments since May 2005. [133805]

Barry Gardiner: The Department has transferred 33 oral questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members since May 2005. This is from a total number of 400 questions tabled.

Questions are transferred to another Department when it is clear that DEFRA is not responsible for the policy raised in the question. Hon. Members are notified by letter on the day of transfer.

The following table shows the breakdown by month and also shows the number of questions withdrawn and unstarred by hon. Members for the same period.

DEFRA orals	*Transferred*	*Withdrawn*	*Unstarred*
June 2005	3	0	0
July 2005	1	4	1
October 2005	4	0	1
November 2005	4	1	0
December 2005	5	2	0
February 2006	2	0	2
March 2006	0	2	1
April 2006	0	1	1
May 2006	1	2	1
June 2006	2	1	2
July 2006	2	2	0
November 2006	1	0	0
December 2006	0	2	0
February 2007	2	0	0
March 2007	1	3	2
April 2007	5	1	7
Total	33	21	18

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people took sick leave for stress in his Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135473]

Barry Gardiner: The most recent sickness absence data available is for the 12 months ending 31 December 2006. During this period, 106 people had stress recorded as their reason for absence. This represents 2.6 per cent. of the number of staff in the Department on 31 December 2006.

DEFRA has had a stress management policy in place since 1999. The Health and Safety Executive management standards have been incorporated into our arrangements and full information and guidance is available on the Intranet. Additional stress resources available in DEFRA include a manager's toolkit, leaflets and videos. This work is supported by DEFRA's Health and Safety Unit.

Domestic Wastes: Recycling

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the household recycling rates were for each region in England in the last year for which figures are available. [135656]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Region	*2005-06*
North East	21.1
North West	23.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	21.8
East Midlands	31.8
West Midlands	25.1
East	34.1
London	20.7
South East	29.2
South West	31.4
England	26.7

Source:
DEFRA Municipal Waste Statistics

Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the review of the Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999 to be published. [136148]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA has recently conducted research to help identify alternative methods for assessing the level of compliance to the Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999. The methods identified will be subject to a public consultation with the aim that one or more of them can be utilised over the 2007-08 shooting season, enabling a review of the regulations to take place in 2008.

Food: Packaging

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of food packaging used in each year between 2000 and 2005. [136375]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* No estimate has been made specifically on food packaging volumes.

However, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), is providing technical and financial support to retailers to help identify ways of reducing the weight of primary packaging, mainly through research and development and innovative packaging design.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government is taking to encourage food suppliers to use less packaging. [136401]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 May 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Swansea, East (Mrs. James) on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1525W.

International Whaling Commission: Poland

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Polish Prime Minister on Poland's possible membership of the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [135528]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1577-78W.

Shellfish: Colchester Native Oyster

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the application for a Protected Geographical Indication for the Colchester Native Oyster to be determined; on what date the application was made; what representations the UK Government has made to support the application; and if he will make a statement. [136131]

Barry Gardiner: A completed application to register the Colchester Native Oyster was received in 2005. Since then, the application has been subject to a lengthy consultation process which provides interested parties within the UK with the opportunity to comment or object to the application. This consultation is necessary to ensure that all views are considered before a decision is taken by DEFRA on whether the application is justified and meets the requirements of the relevant Regulation.

The consultation process prompted a number of objections to, and comments on, the application. Officials have been giving detailed consideration to these representations and have been working closely with the applicants to address them. A meeting earlier this month, between officials and representatives of the applicant group, discussed some final outstanding points relating to the product specification for the Colchester Native Oyster. Following this constructive meeting, an announcement about the next stage of this process is expected to be made within the next month.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the German Government's training of police in Afghanistan. [136484]

Dr. Howells: Following the Bonn Agreement in 2001, Germany assumed lead nation status for the police sector. The German police training project has trained approximately 17,000 Afghan national police personnel, including around 4,000 commissioned and non-commissioned officers. It is our view that the training provided by the German Government has been effective, professional and sustainable. This has provided the Afghans with a sound foundation that will help deliver a police force with a thorough background in a range of policing activities in the long term.

The German police training will become part of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) mission from June. The ESDP policing mission is an EU and international programme that aims to contribute to a joint international strategy for police reform.

Bangladesh: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of the recent bombings at Dhaka and Sylhet railway stations in Bangladesh on the recommencement of the election process; and if she will make a statement. [136431]

Dr. Howells: We condemn the recent bombings at Dhaka and Sylhet railway stations in Bangladesh. The Caretaker government has made clear the importance it attaches to addressing the threat of extremism. We look forward to enhancing our co-operation with the Caretaker government in this regard.

We do not believe that the need to combat terrorism will detract from the Caretaker government's stated commitment to restore democracy in Bangladesh in 2008. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary expressed support for the Caretaker government, called for a detailed roadmap to elections and stressed the importance of respect for human rights and due process when she met the Bangladesh Foreign Adviser, Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury in April.

Charter of Fundamental Rights (EU)

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's position is on the treaty status of the Charter of Fundamental Rights; and if she will make a statement. [134222]

Margaret Beckett: The Charter of Fundamental Rights was agreed at the Nice European Council in December 2000 as a political declaration.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria she used to decide whether to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Uganda in November 2007; and if she will make a statement. [135620]

Dr. Howells: The composition of the Government's delegation to the Commonwealth meetings in Uganda in November has yet to be finalised. However, either my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, or another

Minister from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is expected to attend the Foreign Ministers Meeting which takes place immediately before the Heads of Government Meeting. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister attends the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting itself.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers in her Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135540]

Dr. Howells: The Government publish an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Mr. McCartney) visited India on 23-27 November. A detailed list of visits by all UK Ministers to India since 2003 can be found on the British high commission website on:

http://www.britishhighcommission.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1038154781863.

EC Action: Industrial Relations

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps the UK is taking under the Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue programme (EU budget line 04 03 03 01); and if she will make a statement; [130660]

(2) what steps the UK is taking under the Information and Training Measures for Workers' Organisation programme (EU budget line 04 03 03 03); and if she will make a statement. [130661]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Deployment of the budget is a matter for the Commission (within the agreed framework). The Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue programme (EU budget line 04 03 03 01) and the Information and Training Measures for Workers' Organisation programme (EU budget line 04 03 03 02 not 04 03 03 03) are two of the three programmes belonging to the 'Employment and Social Affairs—Working in Europe, Social Dialogue and Mobility' section of the EU Budget.

The purpose of the Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue programme is to cover the financing of the social partners' (the trade unions and the employers (or their representative organisations) engaged in social dialogue) participation in the European employment strategy and the implementation of the Lisbon strategy, i.e. to cover grants for promoting social dialogue at cross-industry and sectoral level, promoting the financial participation of workers, improving expertise in the field of industrial relations and corporate social responsibility, and promoting equal participation of women in the decision-making bodies of both trade unions and employers' organisations. The budget for 2007 is €14,908,000.

The purpose of the Information and Training Measures for Workers' Organisation programme is to finance information and training measures for social partner organisations representing workers, at European, national or regional level, in order to help workers' organisations contribute to the goals of the Lisbon Strategy. The budget for 2007 is €16,400,000.

EC Common Foreign and Security Policy: Ministers

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's position is on the proposed EU Foreign Minister; and if she will make a statement. [134220]

Margaret Beckett: There is at present no consensus among EU partners on the way forward regarding the constitutional treaty or any new treaty including a proposed EU Foreign Minister. These issues will be discussed at the European Council in June. It is too early to speculate regarding the outcome of these discussions. The Government's approach to these discussions was set out in my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe's written ministerial statement of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS.

EC Countries: Diplomatic Service

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which European Union countries the UK does not remit to the local tax authorities income tax, or sums in lieu of income tax, collected in respect of locally engaged British embassy staff; in which EU countries there are different arrangements for those locally engaged staff who are *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* citizens of the host EU country and *(c)* citizens of a third country; and what the reasons are for such differences. [136112]

Mr. Hoon: Consistent with global diplomatic practice, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) policy is that to the extent compatible with local law, local staff should take responsibility for their own income tax arrangements. The differences in arrangements between FCO missions are determined by local tax regulations, which vary from country to country. The following table summarises the current position in FCO missions in the EU.

Staff without income tax liability in the host country, including some UK and third country nationals, have their salaries abated. The aim is that staff with and without liability to pay income tax should receive comparable take home pay.

	UK missions who act as a withholding agent for income tax on local staff salaries	*Local staff who are UK citizens (and have no local liability)*	*Local staff who are citizens of the host country*
Austria	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Belgium	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Bulgaria	Yes	Abated	Pay as you earn (PAYE)
Cyprus	Yes	Abated	PAYE
Czech Republic	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Denmark	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Estonia	Yes	No UK citizens	PAYE
Finland	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
France	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Germany	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Greece	Yes	All staff have local liability	PAYE
Hungary	No	Currently being revised to bring it in line with Hungarian law	Individual responsibility
Ireland	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Italy	Yes	Abated	PAYE
Latvia	Yes	No UK citizens	PAYE
Lithuania	Yes	Abated	PAYE
Luxembourg	No	Abated	Abated
Malta	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Netherlands	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Poland	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Portugal	No	Abated	Individual responsibility
Romania	Yes	Abated	PAYE
Slovakia	No	All staff have local liability	Individual responsibility
Slovenia	Yes	All staff have local liability	Individual responsibility
Spain	No	All staff have local liability	Individual responsibility
Sweden	No	All staff have local liability	Individual responsibility

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which European Union countries the UK does not remit to the local tax authorities income tax, or sums in lieu of income tax, collected in respect of locally engaged British Council staff; in which EU countries there are different arrangements in respect of local engaged staff who are *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* those who are citizens of the host EU country and *(c)* citizens of a third country; and what the reasons are for such differences. [136262]

Mr. Hoon: Locally-engaged staff of the British Council are employees who are either nationals of the host-country, UK nationals based in the country who are contracted on local terms or nationals of a third country who are contracted on local terms. The following table summarises the current position of locally-engaged British Council employees in the EU with respect to personal income tax. There are no differences in practice across the three categories of locally-engaged staff; although some local regulations will differ between countries.

Income tax paid for locally-engaged staff

Country	*Who are UK citizens*	*Who are citizens of the host country*	*Who are citizens of a third country*
Austria	Yes. By Pay as you earn (PAYE)	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Belgium	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PA YE	Yes. By PAYE
Bulgaria	n/a	Yes. By PAYE	n/a
Cyprus	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Czech Republic	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Denmark	n/a	Yes. By PAYE	n/a
Estonia	n/a	Yes. By PAYE	n/a
Finland	n/a	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
France	Individual responsibility	Individual responsibility	Individual responsibility
Germany	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Greece	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Hungary	Individual responsibility. (Under Double Taxation Treaty a UK citizen does not pay personal income tax for first two years). After that rules apply as for Hungarian citizens.	Currently being revised to bring it in line with Hungarian law.	Individual responsibility

Country	Who are UK citizens	Who are citizens of the host country	Who are citizens of a third country
	Income tax paid for locally-engaged staff		
Ireland	n/a	Yes. By PAYE	n/a
Italy	Yes By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Latvia	n/a	Individual responsibility	n/a
Lithuania	n/a	Yes. By PAYE	n/a
Malta	n/a	Yes By PAYE	n/a
Netherlands	Yes. By PA YE	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Poland	Yes. By PA YE	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Portugal	Individual responsibility	Individual responsibility	n/a
Romania	n/a	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Slovakia	Yes. By PA YE	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Slovenia	n/a	Yes. By PA YE	n/a
Spain	Yes. By PA YE	Yes. By PAYE	Yes. By PAYE
Sweden	Yes. At present responsibility passed to staff, but moving to PAYE	Yes. At present responsibility passed to staff, but moving to PAYE	Yes. At present responsibility passed to staff, but moving to PAYE

n/a = means the British Council has no employees in this category, but that there would be no difference in treatment between them and other LE staff in that country if there were.

EC Justice and Home Affairs: Qualified Majority Voting

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's position is on the use of qualified majority voting for judicial co-operation in criminal matters and police and customs co-operation; and if she will make a statement. [134224]

Margaret Beckett: The proposed use of the Article 42 "passerelle", which provides for the Council to decide, under unanimity, to transfer elements of the field of Justice and Home Affairs from the third pillar, Treaty on European Union, to the first pillar (Treaty on European Community, where qualified majority voting is the norm) was discussed during the Finnish presidency in the latter half of last year. However, discussions at the September, October and December 2006 Justice and Home Affairs Councils, and at the December 2006 European Council, showed that there was very limited support among member states for the proposal, and we consider the debate on the use of the "passerelle" to be over. I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan) on 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 123-126WS.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the charge was for a student visa in each of the last five years for which figures are available; how many student visas were granted in each of these years; and if she will make a statement. [135746]

Dr. Howells: The current fee for a student visa is £99. From 1 July 2005 to 31 March 2007 the fee for a student visa was £85. Between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2005 the fee was £36. Prior to this, the fee was £33.

The number of student visas issued each financial year since 2001-02:

Financial year	Student visas issued
2005-06	194,827
2004-05	182,409
2003-04	146,538
2002-03	128,144
2001-02	121,466

Comprehensive student visa statistics for the last five years are available on the UKvisas website at:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Ethiopia: Kidnapping

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Eritrean government concerning the eight Ethiopians captured with the group of five British embassy workers on 1 March 2007. [132732]

Margaret Beckett: I am delighted with the news that the Ethiopians that were abducted with our embassy officials and family members on 2 March in the Afar region of northern Ethiopia have now been released.

Following the release on 13 March of our embassy staff and family members, our ambassador in Asmara made representations to senior officials in the Eritrea Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office also raised the abduction of the Ethiopians with the Eritrean ambassador and a senior official from the Eritrea Ministry of Foreign Affairs in London on 10 April.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the condition of the eight Ethiopians captured along with a group of five British embassy workers on 1 March 2007; and what steps the Government are taking to secure their release. [132733]

Margaret Beckett: I am delighted with the news that the Ethiopians that were abducted with our embassy officials and family members on 2 March in the Afar region of northern Ethiopia have now been released. We have not yet received any reports on the condition of the abducted Ethiopians.

Since the first release of five of the captives on 13 March, we continued to work for the release of the Ethiopians.

On 13 March, I issued a press statement and called for the release of the Ethiopians. Our ambassador in Addis Ababa did the same in his own press statement on 27 March. Throughout, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and our embassies in Asmara and Addis Ababa maintained active contact with the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia over the continued abduction of the Ethiopians.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her French and Italian counterparts on the eight Ethiopians captured with the group of five British embassy workers on 1 March 2007; and if she will make a statement. [132764]

Margaret Beckett: I am delighted with the news that the Ethiopians that were abducted with our embassy officials and family members on 2 March in the Afar region of northern Ethiopia have now been released.

I had no direct contact on this with my French or Italian counterparts. However, our ambassador in Addis Ababa had discussions with the French and Italian ambassadors in Addis Ababa during the time when the Ethiopians were held captive. The French and Italian ambassadors joined our ambassador when he issued a press statement on Ethiopian television on 27 March calling for the release of the abducted Ethiopians.

Following the release on 13 March of our five embassy officials and family members from our embassy in Addis Ababa, senior officials in London and our embassies in Asmara and Addis Ababa maintained active contact with the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia over the continued abduction of the Ethiopians.

European Constitution Treaty

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by what criteria the Government will judge whether a new EU Treaty would merit a referendum; and if she will make a statement. [134223]

Margaret Beckett: There is at present no consensus among EU partners on the way forward regarding the Constitutional Treaty or any new Treaty. These issues will be discussed at the European Council in June. It is too early to speculate regarding the outcome of these discussions. The Government's approach to these discussions was set out in my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe's written ministerial statement of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which proposals contained in the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe the Government have communicated to European partners that it would not support in any new EU Treaty with the aim of placing the European Union on a renewed common basis before the European Parliament elections in 2009; and if she will make a statement. [134226]

Margaret Beckett: There is at present no consensus among EU partners on the way forward regarding the Constitutional Treaty or any new Treaty. These issues will be discussed at the European Council in June. It is too early to speculate regarding the outcome of these discussions. The Government's approach was set out in my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe's written ministerial statement of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what objectives the Government are seeking to achieve in any new EU Treaty with the aim of placing the European Union on a renewed common basis before the European Parliament elections in 2009; and if she will make a statement. [134227]

Margaret Beckett: There is at present no consensus among EU partners on the way forward regarding the Constitutional Treaty or any new Treaty. These issues will be discussed at the European Council in June. It is too early to speculate regarding the outcome of these discussions. The Government's approach to these discussions was set out in my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe's written ministerial statement of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS. Its six principles are: pursuing British interests, a modern and effective EU, consensus among 27 member states, emphasis on subsidiarity, making best use of existing Treaties, and openness to global change.

European Council

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by the German presidency on bilateral consultations to be held between 23 April and 4 May in preparation for the report the presidency will submit to the June European Council. [134219]

Margaret Beckett: At the June European Council, the German presidency will present a report—based on extensive consultations with member states—assessing the state of discussions on the constitutional treaty and exploring possible future developments.

Discussions are currently under way. The Government do not release presidency papers relating to ongoing discussions.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's position is on the proposed permanent President of the European Council; and if she will make a statement. [134221]

Margaret Beckett: There is at present no consensus among EU partners on the way forward regarding the constitutional treaty or any new treaty including a proposed permanent President of the European Council. These issues will be discussed at the European Council in June. It is too early to speculate regarding the outcome of these discussions. The Government's approach to these discussions was set out in my right

hon. Friend the Minister for Europe's written ministerial statement of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS.

International Co-operation: Drugs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to improve co-ordination between the US and UK on drug eradication policy and operations. [136485]

Dr. Howells: There is regular UK and US engagement on all aspects of international efforts to combat the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. Policies are tailored to meet the specific situation in each country where we are engaged.

In the Western hemisphere, the main coca producing counties are Colombia, Bolivia and Peru. The UK believes that eradication plays an important part alongside other measures to combat cocaine production. However, unlike the US, we are not currently providing funding for eradication in the region.

In the Eastern hemisphere, Afghanistan is the main producer of opium poppy. Eradication policy and its implementation are the responsibility of the Afghan Government, and is one of the eight pillars of their National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS). In the NDCS, eradication should be targeted in areas where there is access to legal rural livelihoods. The UK and US work closely to help the Afghan Government deliver on all aspects of the NDCS, including eradication.

Iran: Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the role is of the Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs in relation to decisions to approve export credit guarantees to companies trading with Iran; and if she will make a statement. [134321]

Margaret Beckett: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, Ian McCartney, is the Departmental Minister for the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD). He has been consulted by ECGD on export credit policy for Iran. ECGD is required to consult Ministers before approving any applications for Iran.

Iraq: Biological Weapons

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Billericay of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1505-06, on which occasions Saddam Hussein used biological weapons against *(a)* Iraqi people and *(b)* other people. [136566]

Dr. Howells: The findings of the Iraq Survey Group (ISO), which included key findings on Iraq's biological weapons programme, noted that "a secretive team developed assassination instruments using poisons or toxins for the Iraqi state" and that "a small group of scientists, doctors and technicians conducted secret experiments on human beings, resulting in their deaths". The ISG concluded that "testing on humans continued until the mid-1990s".

We have no evidence that Saddam Hussein used biological weapons against non-Iraqis. However, the ISG noted that he "personally authorised the use of biological weapons against Israel, Saudi Arabia and US forces" and that he "envisaged all-out use", for example, "all Israeli cities were to be struck".

The full text of the ISG report can be found on the United States Government website at:

https://www.cia.gov/cia/reports/iraq_wmd_2004/

Iraq-Kuwait Conflict: Compensation

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 914-15W, on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict: compensation, what measures the UN expects to be undertaken to recover monies overpaid to claimants. [135117]

Dr. Howells: The Governing Council of the UN Compensation Commission has asked that "best efforts" be made by all concerned governments to seek to recover relevant overpayments from affected claimants and for governments to report back before the next Governing Council in June.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 914-15W, on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict: compensation, how much compensation was paid to claimants; and how much was overpayment. [135118]

Dr. Howells: Nearly 5,000 UK claimants have so far received disbursements of varying amounts totalling US$428 million from the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) through the Government.

The UNCC has identified the sum of US$391,000 as the total amount of overpayment to UK claimants. To provide the information requested for each claimant would require the permission of each individual company and institution concerned. It is therefore not possible to provide such information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 914-15W, on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict: compensation, what part the UK played in discussions on the consensus in the UN Compensation Commission Governing Council on the best efforts approach. [135119]

Dr. Howells: The UK, as one of the permanent members of the Governing Council, played a full role in discussions and supported the decisions taken by general consensus in response to the UN Compensation Commission's investigation of duplicate and overpaid claims, including the adoption of a "best efforts" approach for concerned governments to seek the recovery of overpayments from affected claimants.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 914-15W, on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict: compensation, when the UN Compensation Commission made the decision to request recovery of overpayments; and what representations the UK made when it was informed of the decision. [135120]

Dr. Howells: The UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) Governing Council, at its 61st session in November 2006, adopted 22,000 corrections to awards identified during its investigation into duplicate claims and decided to request governments concerned to seek recovery of relevant overpayments from affected claimants. The same "best efforts" approach has been adopted for all corrections adopted by the UNCC in response to its investigation.

As one of the permanent members of the Governing Council the UK supported the general consensus to adopt a "best efforts" approach to the recovery of overpayments.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 914-15W, on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict: compensation, whether the Government will be responsible for repaying any overpayment not recovered from individuals. [135121]

Dr. Howells: No. The Government are required to use their best efforts to contact and seek to recoup overpaid amounts totalling US$391,000 from 113 affected UK claimants.

Italy: Diplomatic Service

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much income tax or money in lieu of income tax was collected in respect of *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* non-UK citizens who were locally engaged staff in the UK's embassy in Italy in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; what value of these deductions was (i) remitted to the Italian tax authorities, (ii) remitted to the UK's Inland Revenue, (iii) retained by the UK's embassy in Italy and (iv) remitted to London and retained by her Department in each year; and if she will make a statement. [136110]

Mr. Hoon: The Italy-UK Double Taxation Agreement 1988 exempts those staff employed on Government service who are British but not Italian from local income tax. Our embassy in Rome remitted to the Italian authorities the amounts shown as follows on behalf of their non-UK local staff from 1999-2006. No figures are available before 1999. Staff without local liability for income tax in the host country, including some UK and third country nationals, have their salaries abated. When salaries are abated no monies are remitted to either Italian or UK authorities, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, instead the salaries are determined on a net basis.

	€
1999	329,492.00
2000	337,291.00
2001	345,297.00
2002	405,732.00
2003	406,774.00
2004	455,132.00
2005	435,913.00
2006	453,588.00

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to what extent the rates and scale of deductions from pay in respect of or in lieu of tax on income are different for locally engaged staff employed in the UK's embassy in Italy who are UK citizens and those who are not UK citizens; and if she will make a statement. [136111]

Mr. Hoon: In our embassy in Rome the same rates and scales of income tax on salaries and abatement in lieu of income tax apply to local staff who are UK citizens and those who are not UK citizens.

The 2007 rates below are based on current Italian personal income tax rates:

Salary scale (€)	*Tax bands (percentage)*
0-15,000.00	23
15,000.00-28,000.00	27
28,000.00-55,000.00	38
55,000.00-75,000.00	41
75,000.00 plus	43

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much income tax or money in lieu of income tax was collected in respect of *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* non-UK citizens who were locally engaged staff in the British Council in Italy in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; what value of these deductions was (i) remitted to the Italian tax authorities, (ii) remitted to HM Revenue and Customs, (iii) retained by the British Council in Rome and (iv) remitted to London and retained by her Department in each year; and if she will make a statement. [136261]

Mr. Hoon: Locally-engaged staff of the British Council in Italy are contracted on local terms.

UK citizens and non-UK citizens who have been locally-engaged by the British Council in Italy have always paid income tax to the local authorities in line with the requirements of Italian law. No money in lieu of income tax was collected by the British Council in respect of staff who were locally engaged by the British Council in Italy.

The following income tax payments were remitted to the Italian authorities:

	€
1999	351,199.80
2000	407,006.10
2001	360,534.00
2002	392,345.00

	€
2003	342,681.00
2004	382,444.00
2005	516,404.00
2006	621,416.00

Accurate information has been provided on the actual amounts of personal income tax paid on behalf of locally-engaged staff for the last seven years. In the limited time available to retrieve this data, in some cases from the tax authorities themselves, it has not been possible to disaggregate the data into UK and non-UK citizens, not the least because financial data does not differentiate by nationality, but rather by contract type.

All deductions were consistent with Italian law and have been remitted to the Italian tax authorities for at least the last 10 years:

the employment of all staff who are locally-engaged by the British Council in Italy falls under Italian jurisdiction. There is therefore no question of money being remitted to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs;

all money collected as income tax for locally-engaged UK and non-UK citizens was paid to the local authorities in line with the requirements of Italian law. None was retained by the British Council in Rome; and

no money collected as income tax for locally-engaged UK and non-UK citizens employed in Italy was remitted to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Libyan Arab Republic: Immigration

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the UK has given to Libya in helping to prevent immigration of Africans to the EU through its borders and ports. [136164]

Dr. Howells: Preventing the transit of irregular migrants from Africa through Libya is a key priority for both the UK and Libya. Dr. Ali Errishi, the Libyan Migration Minister, met Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office Ministers in the UK on 24-26 April to discuss migration issues. UK and Libyan officials are working together to identify projects for co-operation.

Non-Proliferation Treaty

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's priorities are for the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in Vienna, 30 April to 11 May. [134862]

Margaret Beckett: The United Kingdom's priority for the Preparatory Committee is establishing the basis for strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and the wider nuclear non-proliferation regime over the course of this review cycle. There are a number of specific issues on which useful work could be undertaken, many of which were set out in the EU Common Position agreed for the 2005 Review Conference and remain outstanding. It will be important to build consensus on these areas, and any new workstreams, in this and future Preparatory Committees. We hope that this process will culminate in a substantive final document being agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Prism Information System

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Prism information system is fully operational. [136355]

Mr. Hoon: The global rollout of Prism has been completed, the implementation programme closed at the end of March, and Prism is now fully operational.

Somalia

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who represented the British Government at the April meeting of the International Contact Group on Somalia (ICGS); when the ICGS is next due to meet; and who she expects to represent the British Government at the next meeting. [132457]

Margaret Beckett: At the International Contact Group meeting held in Cairo on 3 April, the Government were represented by senior officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development. It was agreed that the UK should host the next meeting. No firm dates have been agreed and no decision has been taken about the level of UK representation.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what issues were discussed at the April meeting of the International Contact Group on Somalia; what the outcome was of those discussions; and if she will make a statement. [132458]

Margaret Beckett: A range of political, security and developmental issues relating to the future of Somalia were discussed at the International Contact Group meeting held in Cairo on 3 April. Discussion focussed on recent violence in Somalia, the humanitarian situation, the African Union's mission to Somalia and progress in the political and reconciliation process. The outcome of the discussions on these points are summarised in the official Communiqué of the meeting. A copy of the Communiqué will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the role of Somalia's clans and tribal groups in the peace process; what assessment she has made of whether political consensus can be achieved across the different clans and tribal groups; and if she will make a statement. [132459]

Margaret Beckett: A broad base of support within Somalia's complex clan structure is crucial to a lasting peace in Somalia. Therefore, it is vital that the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) reaches out to all the clans and lends a fully inclusive political process. We are stressing this in our contacts with the TFG, for example when my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, met President Yusuf in London on 22 February. We are urging the TFG to convene as soon as possible the National Reconciliation Congress, to involve all clans. We are encouraging other members

of the international community to do likewise and we strongly endorse the Communiqué of 3 April from the International Contact Group on Somalia, of which the UK is member. The Communiqué emphasises the paramount importance of establishing an inclusive and genuine political process reaching out to all parts of Somali society.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress was made towards securing financial and logistical support for the African Union Mission in Somalia at the April meeting of the International Contact Group in Somalia (ICGS); what contributions *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* other ICGS countries have pledged; and if she will make a statement. [132460]

Margaret Beckett: At its meeting in Cairo on 3 April, the International Contact Group emphasised the role of the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the training of all-inclusive Somali security forces and reiterated the need for funding and logistical and technical support to the AU and troop contributing countries.

The UK has provided a range of logistical and planning assistance to the AU. We have also offered financial and logistical support to several countries which intend to contribute troops. With strong support from the UK, the European Union has agreed to provide €15 million. Consistent with the conclusions of the International Contact Group, the UK is encouraging other countries to support AMISOM both financially and logistically.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the humanitarian impact of the recent violence in Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [132461]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are very concerned about the humanitarian situation in Somalia and continues to monitor the situation closely.

In its Communiqué of 3 April, the International Contact Group on Somalia, of which the UK is a member, demanded that all parties in Somalia guarantee the safety and security for all humanitarian agencies and relief work in Somalia. The UK continues to stress this point in its contacts with parties in Somalia.

The UK was the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor to Somalia in 2006 and committed £16 million towards emergency relief activities through the UN and non-governmental organisation partners.

Somalia: Refugees

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of refugees leaving Somalia; what discussions she has had with her *(a)* Kenyan and *(b)* Ethiopian counterparts about the treatment of refugees from Somalia; what the outcome was of those discussions; and if she will make a statement. [132456]

Margaret Beckett: We are very concerned about the plight of Somali refugees and internally displaced persons in Kenya and on the Kenya/Somalia border. I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe gave to him on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W, for our estimate on those displaced by the current upsurge in violence.

We understand that the Kenyan border remains closed to Somalis seeking to leave the country. Our high commissioner in Nairobi has raised the issue with the Kenyan Foreign Minister, emphasising the need to allow humanitarian access across the border, while recognising Kenya's legitimate security concerns. We are maintaining close contact with the Kenyan Government and with the United Nations and other international agencies in Kenya on this issue.

We are not aware of significant numbers of Somali refugees in Ethiopia and therefore have not raised this issue with the Ethiopian Government.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what UK policy is on the creation of a no-fly zone over Darfur; and if she will make a statement. [132712]

Margaret Beckett: We remain deeply concerned by the situation in Darfur. We are discussing new measures in the UN Security Council which include targeted sanctions against individuals engaged in violence or responsible for authorising it, an extension of the arms embargo to cover the whole of Sudan and measures to allow better air monitoring of the violence in Darfur. We continue to consider the possibility of imposing a no fly zone.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made by the UN Panel of Experts in identifying individuals responsible for breaching the arms embargo against Darfur. [132777]

Margaret Beckett: The UN Panel of Experts for Sudan was established by UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1591 (2005). The panel is mandated to assist the Security Council's Sanctions Committee for Sudan in monitoring implementation of the travel ban, assets freeze and arms embargo. The panel reports to the Sanctions Committee on a regular basis.

The panel has gathered information on individuals who have impeded the peace process according to the criteria it sets out in Annex II of the Panel's Interim Report of 16 March for monitoring pursuance of UNSCR 1591. The panel provides this information confidentially to the UN Sanctions Committee for consideration.

The UK is supportive of the principle of extending targeted sanctions, as part of a package of further sanctions, to pressure the Government of Sudan and rebel movements to abide by their agreements, including for breach of the arms embargo.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her US counterparts on proposals to impose a no-fly zone over Darfur; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [132778]

Margaret Beckett: We remain deeply concerned by the situation in Darfur. We are discussing new measures with the US and others in the UN Security Council which include targeted sanctions against individuals engaged in violence or responsible for authorising it, an extension of the arms embargo to cover the whole of Sudan and measures to allow better air monitoring of the violence in Darfur. We continue to consider the possibility of imposing a no-fly zone.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her European counterparts regarding the possibility of imposing restrictions on Euro transactions in Sudan; and if she will make a statement. [132779]

Margaret Beckett: I have had no discussions with my European counterparts on the possibility of imposing restrictions on Euro transactions in Sudan. I am concerned that any coercive measures should impact on those in Sudan who have responsibility for violence in Darfur. I am considering further targeted sanctions against individuals and an extension of the UN arms embargo for Sudan in line with the EU arms embargo.

Sudan: Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is advocating at *(a)* European and *(b)* UN level on the recommendations of the report of 12 March of the UN Human Rights Council Mission to Sudan. [132780]

Margaret Beckett: The situation in Darfur remains characterised by gross and systematic violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law. This was reaffirmed by the report of the High Level Mission on Human Rights in Darfur. The report also recommended more effective protection through the deployment of the UN/African Union peacekeeping force and more human rights monitors; a ceasefire and negotiated peace; effective delivery of humanitarian assistance and ongoing donor support; and tackling impunity, including through Government of Sudan co-operation with the International Criminal Court.

The United Kingdom, along with our EU Partners, played a key role in ensuring the adoption of a resolution by the UN Human Rights Council on 30 March supporting the implementation of the mission's recommendations. The resolution also created an implementation mechanism to work to ensure that the Government of Sudan implements all existing UN recommendations on human rights in Darfur. This mechanism will report to the fifth session of the Human Rights Council, 11-18 June 2007.

The EU, through the General Affairs and External Relations Council, has welcomed the report of the UN's High Level Mission and has urged the Government of Sudan to fully co-operate with them.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what UK policy is on *(a)* UN measures against individuals or groups committing human rights violations and *(b)* the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement as set out in paragraph 14 on UN Security Council Resolution 1706. [134008]

Margaret Beckett: The UK pressed for the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1591 in 2005 which declared that all states shall freeze assets of, and refuse travel to, individuals identified by the Security Council to have committed human rights violations or impeded the peace process. UNSCR 1672 imposed sanctions against four individuals.

Only a political process can solve the crisis in Darfur. We have been funding work to help the African Union (AU) explain the benefits of the Darfur Peace Agreement to the people of Darfur. And we are funding an expert to support the AU in preparing the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation. A renewed political process led by the AU-UN, which brings in as broad a range of the Darfur population as possible, is needed.

The Government of Sudan and rebel movements must abide by their agreements urgently, which include accepting the rapid deployment of a full AU-UN hybrid force, an immediate ceasefire and a resumption of the political process. If they do not, we will be forced to press for tougher measures, including further targeted sanctions.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she expects the deployment of the United Nations assistance to the African Union Mission in Sudan to take place following the letter from the Government of Sudan confirming their agreement. [132775]

Margaret Beckett: I welcomed the Sudanese Government's acceptance of the UN's Heavy Support Package for Darfur at a Security Council meeting on Darfur on 16 April. However, it is only a step towards the full African Union (AU)-UN hybrid operation that was agreed last November in Addis Ababa. We are pressing the AU and UN to deploy as soon as possible, and expect the Sudanese to honour their commitments throughout implementation of both the Heavy Support Package and hybrid force.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether her policy has changed on pursuing a UN Security Council Resolution on Sudan following the letter from the Government of Sudan confirming its agreement on the UN heavy support package to the African Union Mission in Sudan. [134002]

Margaret Beckett: I chaired an informal meeting of the UN Security Council on 16 April which welcomed the Sudanese Government's agreement to the UN's Heavy Support Package. However, this is only a step forward and now is not the time to ease off the pressure. We will test the Sudanese Government's commitment to implement the Heavy Support Package and are pressing them to agree to a joint African

Union/UN hybrid force. If the Sudanese Government and rebels do not co-operate, we must be prepared to introduce tougher sanctions.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plans to raise Zimbabwe at the UN Security Council in light of recent violence against the Zimbabwean opposition; and if she will make a statement. [129977]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply that I gave on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1779W to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore).

Further to this, I can confirm that the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs briefed the UN Security Council in New York on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe on 29 March.

On the same day, the UK and EU made statements at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva expressing deep concern at events in Zimbabwe and urging the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit Zimbabwe and report back to the Human Rights Council at its sixth session.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1779W, on Zimbabwe, when the UK plans to propose to EU partners that the key perpetrators of the violence on 11 March 2007 should be added to the list of those subject to a visa ban and assets freeze. [132705]

Margaret Beckett: The EU visa ban and assets freeze list was extended by five names on 16 April. The UK proposal to EU partners to add certain identified key perpetrators of the violence on 11 March to the EU list was discussed by EU Foreign Ministers on 23 April. It was agreed that a further two names would be added.

HEALTH

Alzheimer's Disease: Drugs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence's decision that anti-dementia medicines should not be made available for NHS patients with newly diagnosed mild Alzheimer's disease. [131676]

Caroline Flint: Full details of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) appraisal of anti-dementia treatments is published at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/cg42

NICE's appraisal methodology is also published at:

www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=howwework.

Autism: Research

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to provide funding for biomedical research into autistic spectrum disorders; and if she will make a statement. [131137]

Caroline Flint: The Department's National Institute for Health Research intends this year to award a programme grant to support research aimed at developing better services and treatments for people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at the point of transition from childhood to adulthood. Research on ASD will also form part of the work programme of the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust and Institute of Psychiatry Biomedical Research Centre that the Department is funding from April 2007.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Innovation.

The MRC has recently expanded its research portfolio in ASD. For example, it has recently funded research that will explore the link between individual differences in fetal testosterone levels and factors of postnatal behavioural development that in extreme form can be thought of as autistic traits.

Along with other agencies, the MRC has also agreed funding for the Autism Genome Project that will be led by an international consortium headed by Professor Tony Monaco. As well as progressing understanding of the molecular genetic basis of ASD, this research might benefit international autism research by generating possibilities for other genetic epidemiological approaches, neuroimaging and behavioural studies.

Chester-le-Street Community Hospital

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 956W, on Chester-le-Street community hospital, for what reasons her Department was able to inform the office of the hon. Member for North Durham on 6 March that the visit was to take place; and for what reasons her answer did not include the cost of the visit. [134469]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 956W. On 7 March County Durham primary care trust (PCT), having been approached by NHS North East, suggested that Secretary of State visit Chester-le-Street community hospital. Shortly after that, on the same day, the Department informed the office of the hon. Member for North Durham that the Secretary of State would visit County Durham on 9 March and stated that we would contact the office of the hon. Member for North Durham should the situation change. The Secretary of State confirmed the programme and final details for the visit on 8 March and the PCT was subsequently notified. She undertook the visit on 9 March. The cost of the visit was in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and Travel by Ministers.

Circumcision

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many circumcisions were funded by the NHS in each primary care trust in each year since 1997, broken down by age; and what the average cost to the NHS was of a circumcision in each year, broken down by age group. [119367]

Caroline Flint: This information is not collected centrally. We can provide the following information from the annual NHS reference costs, which show the unit costs of national health service treatments and procedures. Circumcision falls in the category of penis, minor open procedure.

	Penis minor open procedure > 69 or w cc complications		*Penis minor open procedure <70 w/o cc complications*	
	Total finished consultant episodes	*National average (£)*	*Total finished consultant episodes*	*National average (£)*
Elective in-patient HRG data				
1998	141	557	2,304	513
1999	1,186	687	5,257	612
2000	1,164	710	4,244	669
2001	1,301	825	4,081	691
2002	1,339	933	4,234	772
2003	1,485	931	4,409	829
2004	1,543	946	4,275	872
2005	1,591	1,083	4,044	969
2005-06	1,595	1,125	3,684	1,050
Non-elective in-patient HRG data				
1998	35	977	391	548
1999	348	809	1,246	677
2000	343	801	1,166	740
2001	363	836	1,190	767
2002	421	946	1,240	897
2003	405	1,162	1,140	995
2004	403	1,011	1,174	902
2005	429	1,150	1,179	1,041
2005-06	399	1,231	1,062	1,155
Day Cases				
1998	346	318	15,288	373
1999	1,193	312	24,596	357
2000	1,191	356	21,102	419
2001	1,083	409	21,194	458
2002	1,222	507	21,261	521
2003	1,298	531	22,564	552
2004	1,439	526	23,882	582
2005	1,611	646	23,211	659
2005-06	1,953	672	25,567	689

We can also supply the following hospital episode statistics on circumcision

N30.3 Operations on prepuce circumcision

	Finished consultant episodes	*Mean age*	*Age 0-14*	*Age 15-59*	*Age 60-74*	*Age75+*
1998-99	25,150	23	13,507	9,066	1,695	880
1999-2000	21,824	24	11,302	8,029	1,575	910
2000-01	21,827	25	10,629	8,585	1,596	997
2001-02	22,438	26	10,534	8,978	1,825	1,012
2002-03	23,784	27	10,911	9,739	1,998	1,124
2003-04	24,341	27	10,936	10,244	2,039	1,105
2004-05	24,313	27	10,643	10,369	2,115	1,164
2005-06	25,224	28	10,684	11,112	2,121	1,271

Cost Shunting

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. member for Falmouth and Camborne of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 777, on cost shunting, how she plans to ensure that such proposals are delivered *(a)* in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and *(b)* throughout the country. [134989]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national health service and social services have a duty to work in partnership to provide services that meet the needs of the local population. Local area agreements have been about new ways of joint working, service reconfiguration and redesign, improving the efficiency and targeting of resources and all local partners continuing to work together to deliver health and wellbeing improvements.

Local partnerships across the country, including those in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, can use pooled budgets, under section 31 of the Health Act 1999, to deliver seamless services and develop close co-operative working. Rightly, the development of such partnerships is left to the discretion of local service providers. The latest figures show that there are 497 such partnerships operating across the country.

Departments: Ministers' Private Offices

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 655W, on Departments: Ministers' private offices, if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* job description and *(b)* person specification for the post of Diary Secretary in her private office. [134470]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 27 April 2007]*: It is not appropriate to provide an individual's job description or person specification.

Departments: Risk Register

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes) of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1192W, on the Department's risk register, if she will place in the Library past copies of the risk register. [134114]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As indicated in the previous answer copies of the risk register will not be placed in the Library, as publishing current or past risk registers would inhibit the free and frank exchange of views about significant risks and their management, and inhibit the provision of advice to Ministers.

Food: Hygiene

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what bio-security failings have been investigated by the Food Standards Agency since 2001. [136556]

Caroline Flint: I am advised that investigations into bio-security failings are not within the Food Standards Agency's remit. However, the Agency's Meat Hygiene

Service enforces requirements for handling of food waste at approved slaughterhouses and cutting plants on behalf of both the Agency and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library *(a)* any Official Journal of the European Union notice for private sector involvement in supporting primary care trusts sent for publication and subsequently withdrawn and *(b)* subsequent versions of that notice. [134242]

Andy Burnham: The Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notice has been placed in the Library and is available at the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Procurementandproposals/Tenders/Informationaboutprocess/DH_4137055

A copy of the previous OJEU notice has also been placed in the Library.

Heart Diseases: Strokes

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice her Department provides to NHS trusts on safe travelling times for *(a)* heart attack and *(b)* stroke patients for emergency admissions. [135348]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national service framework (NSF) for coronary heart disease published in March 2000 sets the standard that people thought to be suffering from heart attack should be given thrombolysis (treatment with clotbusting drugs) within 60 minutes of calling for professional help. Where the journey time to hospital is routinely more than 30 minutes, the NSF states that other models of treatment should be considered, for example pre-hospital thrombolysis.

Angioplasty given as an emergency treatment (known as primary angioplasty) is developing as an alternative treatment to thrombolysis in some cardiac centres. No guidance has been issued on safe travelling times to receive primary angioplasty. Current evidence is that this technique leads to improved outcomes compared to thrombolysis, even if performed up to three hours from time of call for help.

No guidance has been issued on safe travelling times for stroke patients. The Department is preparing a stroke strategy, which will include guidance on the emergency treatment of stroke.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the report on mixed sex wards she has received from the heads of strategic health authorities; [121793]

(2) whether she intends to improve the target on mixed sex wards to take account of more factors. [121814]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The target to eliminate mixed sex accommodation in 95 per cent. of trusts was achieved on time in 2002. We have not collected formal information against the target since then, and do not have any current plans to reinstate or expand this collection.

In November 2006, David Nicholson asked strategic health authorities to review their latest information on mixed-sex accommodation and ensure it was accurate. Alongside other data, including patient environment action team reports, and findings from the Healthcare Commission inpatient survey, this information has been brought together in a comprehensive report on the situation by the chief nursing officer, which includes identification of best practice examples. Copies of the report are available in the Library.

Hospitals: Finance

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of the research and development budget for London hospitals was reallocated to hospitals in the regions in each of the last three years; [131348]

(2) what proportion of her Department's research and development budget is allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* each of the regions following her recent announcement on biomedical research centres. [131350]

Caroline Flint: Allocations from the research and development budget are made on the basis of research activity rather than a regional basis. Details of the allocations made to national health service trusts and other research active NHS organisations over the last three years are published on the Department's website www.dh.gov.uk.

The distribution of the allocations has not varied significantly over this period.

The Department's implementation of the Government's health research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" will deliver a funding system that is transparent, fair and sustainable and where funding better reflects research and development activity. The creation of Biomedical Research Centres alongside the expansion of national research programmes and the establishment of new funding schemes is one of the ways in which these objectives will be achieved. The transition to the new system will be complete by 2009. Further details are available on the National Institute for Health Research website www.nihr.ac.uk.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths have resulted from hospital-acquired infections in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; what steps she is taking to reduce these incidences; and if she will make a statement. [133412]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on deaths from hospital acquired infections is not available. The Office for National Statistics publishes analyses of deaths in England and Wales with methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) or *Clostridium difficile* (C. difficile) mentioned on the death certificate but these data do not indicate if the infection was acquired in hospital or elsewhere.

The following tables show the latest information available on MRSA and C. difficile deaths in England and Wales.

Reducing healthcare associated infections (HCAIs), including MRSA and *Clostridium difficile* is one of just four development priorities in the operating framework for 2007-08 published in December 2006. In addition to the existing target to halve MRSA blood stream infections by 2008 the operating framework requires new local targets to significantly reduce *Clostridium difficile* infections.

In October 2006 a new statutory code of practice for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections came into force. This requires the national health service to have appropriate management and clinical governance systems in place to deliver effective infection control and will drive up standards.

Number of death certificates with Staphylococcus aureus and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) mentioned and as the underlying cause in England and Wales from 1996 to 2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mentions										
All *Staphylococcus aureus*	746	785	872	964	1,150	1,211	1,221	1,403	1,623	2,083
MRSA	301	389	412	487	669	734	800	955	1,168	1,629
Underlying cause[1]										
All *Staphylococcus aureus*[1]	233	241	262	268	344	436	410	493	549	641
MRSA[2]	79	102	118	126	195	254	248	321	360	467

[1] The inclusion of ICD-10 code A41.9 in selecting the underlying cause has resulted in small differences to data for 2001 and 2002 previously published for England and Wales in HSQ21. For the years 1996 to 2000 previously published figures incorrectly excluded deaths coded to ICD-9 code 008.4 (an addition of between 1 and 7 deaths has been made).
[2] Excludes neonatal deaths

Note:
England and Wales data include non-residents who died in England and Wales.

Number of death certificates with Clostridium difficile, mentioned and recorded Clostridium difficile as the underlying cause of death from 1999 to 2005[1] in England and Wales[2]

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mentions	975	—	1,214	1,428	1,788	2,247	3,807
Underlying cause[3]	531	—	691	756	958	1,245	2,074

[1] England and Wales data include non-residents who died in England and Wales
[2] All deaths in England and Wales are coded by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The Tenth revision (ICD-10) has been used by the ONS since 2001. In the Ninth revision of the ICD (ICD-9) there are no specific codes that would allow deaths mentioning C. difficile to be easily identified. Data for 2000 are therefore not available as ICD-9 was used in this year. Deaths registered in 1999 in England and Wales were coded to both ICD-9 and ICD-10 as part of a special study to compare the two ICD revisions, and have therefore been used to give an additional year of data on deaths involving C. difficile.
[3] Excludes neonatal deaths

Hospitals: Telephones

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what payments her Department has made to Patientline; [135483]

(2) how many complaints she has received about Patientline. [135484]

Andy Burnham: The Department has not made any payments to Patientline. Contracts are agreed directly between the NHS trust and their chosen service provider. The service provider pays the costs of installation and managing the service and charges the patient directly, if they choose to use its services.

Since August 2005, some 182 members of the public have written to the Department about integrated bedside television and telephone services. The number of complaints this correspondence may contain is not identified separately.

Medical Records: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* central funding is planned to be made available and *(b)* local funding is planned to be ring-fenced for a locally-led public information programme to inform patients about the way their healthcare information will be held and to tell patients about the right they have to limit the way their information is shared. [131758]

Caroline Flint: A public information programme about the national health service care records service (NHS CRS) will be delivered to inform patients of the changes to how their health information will be stored and accessed, and the rights and choices they will have. It has been developed by the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency, in conjunction with key stakeholders which include clinicians and patient representative groups, and with input and advice from the Information Commissioner and the Summary Care Record Advisory Group.

Key elements of the programme are already in place and include leaflets, posters, patient guidance, a telephone information line, and outdoor exhibition trailers. National health service organisations will be free to tailor these for local use. As a national supplier

to the national programme for information technology. British Telecom has agreed to sponsor some elements of this work.

It is not currently possible to estimate what central funding will be required to ensure delivery of the public information programme. This will depend on the number of early adopter primary care trusts that decide to implement the NHS CRS in 2007-08. Local planning and funding of implementation of the programme is a matter for individual NHS bodies.

Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the availability of the drug Tysabri for the treatment of sufferers of multiple sclerosis. [131105]

Caroline Flint: Tysabri for the treatment of highly active relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis is subject to a continuing appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Pending NICE's final guidance on Tysabri national health service bodies should continue to make local decisions on its availability, taking account of the available evidence.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita was of the drugs budget of the NHS in each of the last 15 years. [133668]

Caroline Flint: Primary care and national health service trust drugs budgets are not determined centrally. From the inception of primary care trusts in 1999-2000, trusts are responsible for setting their own budgets; decisions on the level of funding will depend on local priorities.

The table gives the total drugs bill since 1990-91, and is broken down by primary care and the hospital and community health service (HCHS).

The Department does not publish the drugs bill on a per capita basis. The per capita figures shown have been derived from Office National Statistics mid-year total population estimates for England, and do not take into account age related demand for drugs.

	Total outturn (£ million)	*Per capita (£)*	*Of which primary (£ million)*	*Per capita (£)*	*Of which HCHS (£ million)*	*Per capita (£)*
Cash terms						
1990-91	2,540	53.3	2,080	43.6	460	9.6
1991-92	2,908	60.7	2,317	48.4	591	12.3
1992-93	3,284	68.4	2,641	55.0	643	13.4
1993-94	3,661	76.1	2,951	61.3	710	14.8
1994-95	3,994	82.8	3,230	67.0	764	15.8
1995-96	4,372	90.4	3,498	72.3	874	18.1
1996-97	4,735	97.6	3,774	77.8	961	19.8
1997-98	5,173	106.3	4,085	83.9	1,088	22.4
1998-99	5,550	113.7	4,339	88.9	1,211	24.8
1999-2000	6,202	126.5	4,833	98.6	1,369	27.9
Resource terms (from 2000-01)						
2000-01	6,688	135.8	5,158	104.8	1,530	31.1
2001-02	7,447	150.6	5,707	115.4	1,740	35.2
2002-03	8,355	168.3	6,342	127.7	2,013	40.5
2003-04	9,271	186.0	6,960	139.6	2,311	46.4
2004-05	9,965	198.9	7,370	147.1	2,595	51.8

Notes:

1. Sources: Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, England and Department of Health Finance Division.
2. Figures are net which include Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) receipt savings.
3. The total drugs spend include drugs expenditure in primary care and the HCHS. The primary care expenditure reflects amounts paid to pharmacy and appliance contractors and amounts authorised for dispending doctors and personal administration in England. HCHS expenditure includes drugs and medical gases.
4. From 2000-01 figures are in reaource terms, prior to this figures are in cash terms. Cash figures relate to February to January prescribing due to delay in prescription processing and payment calculations. Resource figures represent the actual cost between April to March.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total public expenditure per head of population on the *(a)* capital and *(b)* running costs of the NHS was in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire, (vi) Norfolk and (vii) each of the English regions in each year since 1997. [134675]

Andy Burnham: Expenditure per unweighted head is shown in the following tables. It is only possible to show figures for the specified areas (based on predecessor health authority areas) up to 2001-02; after this data is shown for the relevant strategic health authority areas. Running costs are the total revenue expenditure of health authorities, strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs), as appropriate. Capital is the total expenditure on the purchase of fixed assets in the year by health

authorities, strategic health authorities and primary care trusts, as appropriate, and by national health service trusts sited within those areas. Capital expenditure is not available for 1997-98.

Table 1: Running costs—expenditure per unweighted head of population

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Suffolk	544.21	582.75	653.06	702.91	826.60	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire	516.99	562.92	655.08	715.39	886.01	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	504.47	548.19	661.27	697.58	812.98	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	554.80	605.51	706.34	772.78	788.10	803.07	973.72	1,115.64	1,205.05
Hertfordshire	590.02	616.96	689.32	736.38	996.02	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	578.95	643.71	742.60	779.51	814.19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	855.15	951.46	1,089.15	1,140.76
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	997.51	1,054.67	1,150.02	1,230.94
Strategic health authority area									
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	569.38	603.47	696.27	764.69	837.62	913.62	1,058.43	1,149.54	1,250.34
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	564.37	597.93	677.38	729.06	957.73	855.15	951.46	1,089.15	1,140.76
Birmingham and the Black Country	627.55	699.02	777.51	826.01	1,015.54	965.01	1,169.31	1,278.32	1,413.32
Cheshire and Merseyside	620.81	686.47	791.42	885.33	964.69	1,152.74	1,180.44	1,354.97	1,489.65
County Durham and Tees Valley	596.10	664.12	792.22	850.91	932.33	1,084.31	1,192.95	1,337.34	1,446.69
Cumbria and Lancashire	601.03	679.92	819.63	894.22	962.68	1,215.84	1,277.22	1,260.32	1,337.44
Dorset and Somerset	579.03	618.90	715.61	915.78	1,123.84	797.80	1,012.24	1,146.10	1,240.25
Essex	576.84	605.51	706.34	772.78	788.10	803.07	973.72	1,115.64	1,205.05
Greater Manchester	616.28	675.64	786.41	850.27	939.33	1,070.68	1,220.29	1,326.87	1,461.08
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	558.15	594.08	667.29	729.88	885.43	865.41	1,021.94	1,146.79	1,224.35
Kent and Medway	576.63	609.94	735.76	758.42	810.67	867.94	976.86	1,123.55	1,207.09
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	541.85	590.17	696.68	728.53	811.57	870.92	981.90	1,093.20	1,208.89
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	548.45	596.71	687.07	727.78	817.70	997.51	1,054.67	1,150.02	1,230.94
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	575.79	640.25	726.01	771.23	849.87	906.27	1,001.51	1,142.03	1,255.92
North Central London	730.48	815.11	914.53	1,078.17	1,105.05	1,394.68	1,415.81	1,550.81	1,646.23
North East London	703.32	786.51	912.88	981.73	1,060.50	1,111.02	1,303.88	1,428.90	1,554.06
North West London	735.84	799.16	895.91	962.95	1,044.04	1,198.62	1,335.59	1,440.70	1,498.50
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	649.89	719.64	842.77	890.61	985.49	1,094.71	1,202.15	1,351.37	1,479.08
Shropshire and Staffordshire	573.17	598.72	694.25	740.03	923.09	870.69	975.36	1,132.57	1,225.95
South East London	705.15	788.22	940.51	1,009.23	1,092.94	1,207.78	1,348.69	1,503.33	1,607.41
South West London	660.35	709.31	826.66	884.90	948.29	1,039.46	1,172.11	1,283.18	1,354.39
South West Peninsula	598.79	635.87	745.47	796.01	851.11	985.33	1,060.87	1,204.71	1,311.96
South Yorkshire	676.41	738.73	878.70	926.77	1,018.92	1,143.82	1,256.73	1,412.39	1,526.66
Surrey and Sussex	618.46	656.23	780.66	815.77	903.64	960.55	1,097.02	1381.31	1,260.91
Thames Valley	519.76	544.01	626.46	685.84	772.39	786.00	959.52	1,066.88	1,122.22

Table 1 Running costs—expenditure per unweighted head of population

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Trent	575.53	636.93	720.04	775.60	936.51	842.41	1,044.16	1,157.56	1,260.38
West Midlands South	594.38	623.80	714.92	753.76	840.65	880.32	975.04	1,109.93	1,219.27
West Yorkshire	627.04	677.70	773.71	831.40	999.83	1,025.71	1,151.63	1,269.29	1,390.17
England	607.85	659.76	763.79	825.38	926.13	991.07	1,116.32	1,236.10	1,334.99

Table 2 Capital—expenditure per unweighted head of population

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Suffolk	11.17	10.30	20.84	16.07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire	28.11	0.56	27.98	47.40	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	25.90	27.36	47.65	36.70	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	14.81	28.44	37.82	50.83	43.22	55.57	48.42	60.50
Hertfordshire	20.41	14.78	24.92	40.07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	7.48	11.42	24.23	37.27	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.96	44.43	26.51	35.29
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	82.43	52.51	33.88	28.28
Strategic health authority area								
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	32.77	65.96	31.97	54.42	50.76	43.49	33.93	36.20
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	23.12	14.97	25.99	42.62	20.96	44.43	26.51	35.29
Birmingham and the Black Country	25.67	28.58	33.79	40.34	70.85	77.12	64.38	35.41
Cheshire and Merseyside	24.72	19.28	29.57	51.97	82.59	58.91	67.98	65.66
County Durham and Tees valley	11.86	19.71	56.71	52.29	59.00	39.01	41.15	47.17
Cumbria and Lancashire	21.61	22.39	30.19	32.98	53.19	47.41	48.26	36.04
Dorset and Somerset	12.79	19.17	21.08	50.10	36.99	37.74	46.27	63.63
Essex	14.81	28.44	37.82	50.83	43.22	55.57	48.42	60.50
Greater Manchester	46.47	26.75	47.27	58.05	48.99	53.84	37.95	45.63
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	15.08	25.51	32.73	87.84	45.04	55.83	67.45	47.68
Kent and Medway	21.37	15.28	25.40	32.89	65.46	44.56	44.29	50.11
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	14.85	18.62	24.08	59.07	62.82	48.98	49.02	49.06
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	14.40	16.49	31.06	30.40	82.43	52.51	33.88	28.28
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	19.41	111.72	31.09	39.99	50.72	41.93	41.77	54.95
North Central London	50.46	108.67	89.65	126.54	77.39	68.38	65.40	46.96
North East London	28.11	27.68	32.30	30.38	55.42	89.05	80.54	64.45
North West London	32.84	63.79	44.33	74.61	67.89	81.95	88.68	69.93
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	23.13	34.72	76.04	46.48	72.79	66.48	52.62	63.91
Shropshire and Staffordshire	15.02	19.54	28.30	35.55	68.54	59.14	43.28	38.74
South East London	22.90	53.79	48.53	54.68	131.22	64.71	62.76	64.99
South West London	23.02	43.20	87.53	54.35	49.84	62.70	41.76	34.71
South West Peninsula	15.56	18.90	28.11	60.40	51.24	60.92	42.34	52.38
South Yorkshire	29.40	34.61	41.67	43.01	56.60	54.19	26.99	17.32
Surrey and Sussex	20.59	28.30	24.14	27.00	77.52	53.75	52.68	36.15
Thames Valley	19.11	43.83	44.38	42.61	49.24	56.17	50.05	38.59
Trent	19.69	19.02	27.39	71.08	51.17	49.12	40.23	37.68
West Midlands South	22.13	16.93	19.17	23.71	52.54	42.57	38.97	33.30

Table 2: Capital expenditure per unweighted head of population

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
West Yorkshire	13.28	21.41	30.15	26.63	51.10	47.40	38.58	39.88
England	22.89	33.44	36.98	49.10	60.39	55.62	49.18	45.55

Notes:
Expenditure by health authority area is taken as the total expenditure of the strategic health authority, predecessor health authorities and primary care trusts within the health authority areas, and (for capital) by relevant NHS trusts.
Running Costs expenditure shown does not include all NHS expenditure within the area. Expenditure on general dental services and pharmaceutical services accounted for by the Dental Practice Board and Prescription Pricing Authority, respectively, are excluded. This expenditure cannot be included within the figures for the individual health bodies as they are not included in commissioner accounts.
Capital expenditure includes expenditure by NHS trusts within the authority areas but services provided by the NHS trusts may not be restricted to the particular strategic health authority areas.
Expenditure by NHS foundation trusts is not included.

Sources:
Audited accounts of health authorities 1997-98 to 2001-02
Audited summarisation forms of strategic health authorities 2002-03 to 2005-06
Audited summarisation schedules of primary care trusts 2000-01 to 2005-06
Audited summarisation schedules of NHS trusts 1997-1998 to 2005-06
Office of National Statistics unweighted population figures

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 138W, on NHS: finance, for which different data sets she envisages re-using the templates. [131890]

Andy Burnham: The maps were designed so that they could be regularly updated to reflect developments in the local improvement finance trust and hospital building programmes as and when required.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which web browsers Choose and Book is compatible; which other parts of the NHS IT programme use web browsers; and with which browsers each of those parts is compatible. [131772]

Caroline Flint: The choose and book professional application is fully compatible with Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6.0 (IE6). Users are advised to employ IE6, but can also use Internet Explorer version 7.0 (IE7). Instructions on optimum browser configuration for IE7 have been published on the choose and book website.

The choose and book patient application currently supports Microsoft Internet Explorer version 5.0 (IE5) and above. Microsoft Internet Explorer is used by over two thirds of all internet users in the United Kingdom, and for this reason was selected as the browser for which the patient web application was originally devised in order to achieve access to the greatest number of patients in the shortest possible time. While this means that the site is not yet accessible to all internet users, work is in hand to ensure one hundred per cent. accessibility later this year, including to those who access via the Firefox and Safari web browsers.

A warning about chose and book browser compatibility is posted on the HealthSpace website, together with advice on how to report and resolve any problems.

All the national programme's core applications and services require web browser functionality. Suppliers are delivering solutions which will in due course be accessible via all versions of IE or Firefox. However, in the short term, some current versions of suppliers' solutions are limited to IE6.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means care data from a single patient kept in different locations are to be assembled by clinicians using the new NHS IT system for patient records; and if she will make a statement. [132071]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: A key element of the national programme for information technology is delivery of a national summary care record. The first phase of this service will allow a summary of information held on general practitioners' systems to be uploaded to a national database to allow other clinicians to view it. Information is loaded onto the database from different systems via a transaction messaging system, which processes and routes data messages. Introduction of the summary care record has now begun at so-called early adopter sites.

In the first instance it is expected that the service will be predominantly of use in unscheduled care settings where knowledge of allergies, medicines and major diagnoses will improve patient care and safeguard patient safety. It is expected that the service will be extended in due course to include information from other care settings. Implementation and the future development of the summary care record will be overseen by an advisory group, including clinical, patient and manager stakeholders, chaired by Professor Martin Marshall, the Department's Deputy Chief Medical Officer.

The systems which will enable clinicians to access and use the care records service are being delivered by the national programme's local service providers (LSPs). Each of the LSPs has a portfolio of products that cover different care settings and specialities. It is the LSPs' responsibility to integrate their products with each other, and with the central services such as the summary care record, the personal demographic service that provides a single authoritative source of patient demographic data, and the access control framework, which registers and authenticates users. The purpose of these integration requirements is to underpin the creation of a coherent and consistent national information service.

This is being implemented using the worlds first HL7 V3 enterprise solution (HL7 V3 is an international

health messaging standard). The messages that support the integration of systems flow through the central spine database. The spine is the colloquial name given to the national database of key information about patients' health and care. It forms the core of the national health service care records service (NHS CRS). The spine currently deals with well in excess of 40 million messages a month and supports around 350,000 registered users, some 50,000 of whom access the system on a typical day, with a peak of over 20,000 users authenticating to the system in a single hour. This is in marked contrast with the previous situation in the NHS which was characterised by huge diversity and an inability to communicate information between systems.

The NHS CRS will provide an integrated national service for all NHS clinical applications, with consequent improvements in patients' safety, care and experience, and the efficiency of the service as a whole. This is being delivered by providing an overarching information strategy that allows the portfolio of systems from the local service providers and the existing systems providers to be integrated into a coherent service. The clear evidence that this approach is proving effective is that 102 systems have been through the compliance programmes, creating a level of systems interoperability that was unimaginable three years ago.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how information held on equipment from different suppliers is to be integrated in the new NHS IT system for patient records. [132072]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: Information from different suppliers is integrated in the new national health service information technology systems by having an agreed set of messages and interaction sequences to permit communication between systems. This set of messages and interaction sequences has been created by the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency in the form of the Message Implementation Manual (MIM). They are defined using an international standard called HL7 version 3. NHS Connecting for Health has been a lead participant in the development of this standard.

The national application service provider for the NHS care records service (NHS CRS) uses the MIM to create a more detailed specification called the external integration specification. Local service providers use this specification to develop their systems, which are tested for conformity to it in NHS Connecting for Health's national integration centre (NIC). The NIC is staffed by NHS Connecting for Health's technical assurance team and testing teams from each of the suppliers. The assurance team is responsible for ensuring that suppliers' products and services can be implemented on both a national and local level.

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Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts use systems for demand management of patients referred by GPs to tertiary health services. [134157]

Andy Burnham: The information is not available centrally as this is a matter for the national health service locally.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for St. Ives of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 775, on NHS information technology, what information her Department collects from local trusts on the *(a)* costs and *(b)* useage of the Choose and Book system; [134550]

(2) pursuant to the oral answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 775, on NHS information technology, what kinds of information on the Choose and Book system are collected; and from whom. [134988]

Caroline Flint: The Department receives information from primary care trusts via monthly monitoring returns, which provide data relating to the number of converted Choose and Book unique booking reference numbers for first outpatient appointments. Other data on usage is extracted by the department from the Choose and Book system itself. NHS Connecting for Health also collects local information on technology release dates.

No information is collected by the Department on costs at trust level.

Nurses: Redundancy

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were made redundant in each London NHS trust in each of the last 10 years. [133511]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of nurses made compulsorily redundant in each London trust in the nine months to December 2006 is in the following table. This is the first time redundancy data has been collected centrally in the last 10 years.

Compulsory nurse redundancies in London April 2006 to December 2006

London trust	*Type*	*Compulsory nurse redundancies at 31 December 2006*
Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT)	PCT	0
Tower Hamlets PCT	PCT	0
Newham PCT	PCT	0
Waltham Forest PCT	PCT	0
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital National Health Service Trust	Acute	0

Compulsory nurse redundancies in London April 2006 to December 2006

London trust	Type	Compulsory nurse redundancies at 31 December 2006
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	Acute	1
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	Acute	2
Barts and The London NHS Trust	Acute Other	0
East London and the City MH NHS Trust	Mental Health	0
London Strategic Health Authority (SHA)	SHA	0
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	Acute	3
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	Acute	0
Haringey Teaching PCT	PCT	3
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	Children's Services	1
Camden and Islington Mental Health Social Care NHS Trust	Care Trust	0
Camden PCT	PCT	0
Barnet PCT	PCT	0
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	Acute	0
Lewisham PCT	PCT	1
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	Acute	11
Lambeth PCT	PCT	0
Southwark PCT	PCT	0
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	Acute	7
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	Acute	1
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	Mental Health	1
St. Mary's NHS Trust	Acute Other	0
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	Acute	4
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	PCT	0
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	Multi Service	0
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	Acute Other	0
Harrow PCT	PCT	0
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	Acute	0
Brent Teaching PCT	PCT	0
Kingston PCT	PCT	3
Wandsworth PCT	PCT	1
Sutton and Merton PCT	PCT	0
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	Acute	0
Lewisham PCT	PCT	0
Bexley Care PCT	PCT	0
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	Acute Other	3
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	Acute	0
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	Acute	0
Barking and Dagenham PCT	PCT	0
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	PCT	0
Redbridge PCT	PCT	0
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	Mental Health	0
Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust	Mental Health	0
The Royal Nat Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	Orthopaedic	0
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	Acute Other	0
Islington PCT	PCT	0
Barnet, Enfield And Haringey MH NHS Trust	Mental Health	0
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	Acute	0
Enfield PCT	PCT	0
Bromley PCT	PCT	0
Greenwich Teaching PCT	PCT	0
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Ambulance	0
SW London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	Mental Health	0
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	PCT	0
Croydon PCT	PCT	0
Central and North West London MH NHS Trust	Mental Health	0
Ealing PCT	PCT	0
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	PCT	0
Hillingdon PCT	PCT	0
Hounslow PCT	PCT	0
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	Acute Other	0
Westminster PCT	PCT	0
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	Acute	13
Total		55

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of pharmacists collecting prescription fees. [131773]

Caroline Flint: No formal assessment of the collection of prescription charges has been made. However, this is a simple arrangement in that it gives the patient the opportunity to sign a declaration of entitlement to exemption, or pay a charge, at the time dispensing takes place.

Primary Health Care

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* capability and *(b)* capacity of primary care trusts to deliver a shift of patient care from the secondary sector into primary care; and if she will make a statement. [122813]

Andy Burnham: All primary care trusts (PCTs) have, within the last year, gone through the Fitness for Purpose assessment, which assessed the short-term risks of PCTs failing to meet their objectives in finance, strategy and other areas. PCTs also underwent a commissioning diagnostic, designed to identify gaps in

their capabilities and enable them to create a focused improvement programme. Although Fitness for Purpose did not include a specific question on the shift of patient care from secondary to primary care, achieving such a shift is critical to good commissioning. The assessment exercise revealed that most PCTs were at or above minimum standards for commissioning.

As well as individual PCT development plans, there are a number of mechanisms in place to facilitate a shift of services to settings that are more convenient for patients, including:

a 750 million capital investment fund to support the development of more community hospitals and facilities to deliver care closer to home;

the opportunity through practice based commissioning for primary care practitioners to decide what services should be commissioned locally and to provide more services for themselves; and

new advice about commissioning services from accredited practitioners with special interests.

Queen's Hospital, Romford

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* student nurses are employed at the Queen's hospital in Romford. [135023]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held in the format requested. However, the table shows the number of doctors within Barking, Havering and Redbridge hospitals national health service trust by grade. We are unable to provide student nurse figures as we do not hold these at trust level.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Medical and dental staff within in Barking, Havering And Redbridge hospitals national health service trust by grade as at 30 September 2006

	Number (Headcount)
All staff	739
Consultant	216
Associate specialist	14
Staff grade	64
Registrar group	116
Senior house officer	212
Foundation year 2	44
House officer and foundation year 1	47
Hospital practitioner/clinical assistant	26

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical operations have been performed at the Queen's hospital in Romford since its opening. [135027]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally at hospital level.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors there are per patient at the Queen's hospital in Romford; [135028]

(2) how many wards there are in Romford's Queen's hospital; and how many are in use. [135029]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally.

Sharon Payne

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will apply for rescindment of the court order relating to the provision of the medical files held by Sharon Payne to the Attorney General. [128322]

Caroline Flint: It would not be appropriate for the Secretary of State to seek a rescindment of this court order as this remains the responsibility of the Attorney-General.

Speech Therapy

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the impact of the change in numbers of allied health professional posts on speech and language therapy services. [132399]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The recently published September 2006 national health service workforce census showed there were a headcount of 6,623 speech and language therapists, an increase of 1,752 or 36 per cent. since 1997.

There was also a full-time equivalent increase in the number of speech and language therapists of 87 or 1.7 per cent. in 2006 from the previous year.

Patients requiring NHS speech and language therapy services will benefit from these work force increases.

Surgery

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1204W, on surgery, for what reasons there are differences between the data provided in the answer and the data provided in the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on operations. [131883]

Andy Burnham: The two questions asked for different information. The question answered on 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1204W, used the term procedures and was answered using a count of all procedures for admitted patients. The question answered on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1117W, used the term operations and was answered using a count of finished consultant episodes that include a main operation. The data provided in response to each question was set out in the title of the table given in each reply.

More procedures are carried out than finished consultant episodes that include a main operation. For example, patients under going a cataract operation would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single finished consultant episode.

Further information can be found at www.hesonline.org.uk.

Surgery: Death

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the post-operative death rate for emergency procedures was in the NHS in each year between 1998-99 and 2005-06. [131920]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collate the specified information required.

The data are available from the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development via their website at www.nchod.nhs.uk. They have produced the following data for 1998-99 to 2003-04 linking data from the information available from the Hospital Episode Statistics data and the Office for National Statistics mortality data to get the nearest information available. These data include deaths in hospital and after discharge. Data are not yet available for 2004-05 onwards.

Deaths within 30 days of a hospital procedure: surgery (non-elective admissions), data for national health service hospitals England, data years 1998-99 to 2003-04

Data year	Number of completed in-patient spells (denominator)	Number of deaths (numerator)	Post operative death rate (numerator/ denominator)
2003-04	367,400	17,273	0.0470
2002-03	358,147	17,272	0.0482
2001-02	348,459	17,001	0.0488
2000-01	347,810	17,553	0.0505
1999-2000	350,864	18,258	0.0520
1998-99	337,430	18,295	0.0542

Notes:

1. Unstandardised data

The data presented here are unstandardised. This means that changes between years in the mix of patients' ages, gender or procedures are not taken into account in presenting these figures. In addition, no statistical analysis is included to determine whether changes in rates are significant.

2. Data definitions

Spells examined: spells where there was at least one mention of an eligible procedure code in any of the 12 procedure fields (excluding spells where there was a diagnosis code of cancer or chemotherapy for cancer).

Nature of admissions: All non-elective admission methods were used.

Cause of Death: All causes of death are used.

The period for which deaths are included: 0-29 inclusive days after first procedure.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Approved Premises: Greater London

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many approved premises there are in the Greater London probation area; how many places are available at each establishment; how many assistant managers are employed at each of the approved premises in the Greater London probation area; and how many posts are vacant; [135170]

(2) how many relief staff are employed at each approved premises in the Greater London probation area; [135171]

(3) whether staff from private security firms are used to supervise residents in approved premises in the Greater London probation area during the night shift; [135172]

(4) what the establishment staffing figure is for each approved premise in the Greater London probation area; and how many of those staff posts were vacant on 30 March. [135265]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

There are 13 approved premises in London, nine managed by the London Probation Board and four by voluntary sector providers. Collectively they provide a total of 311 bed spaces. The number of beds at each approved premises varies. The largest (Westbourne House) has 41 bed spaces, the smallest (Haling) has 18. In the board-managed sector, there are five assistant managers employed at each approved premises, making a total of 45 in all; seven of those posts are currently vacant. Across the four voluntary-managed premises there are 18 assistant manager posts, of which one is currently vacant.

London Probation Board has, over the course of many years, built a significant pool of relief staff, who are used across the estate to provide cover for annual leave, sickness and training. All relief staff are CRB checked, required to undertake a 'shadow' shift before commencing their duties, and expected to complete the area's core approved premises training programme. A full list of relief staff is held by the London Probation HR Department, and only staff on the list are offered work. The number employed at each approved premises will vary over time as dictated by the need for cover. Similarly, each of the voluntary sector providers has a pool of relief staff on which they can draw to cover short-term gaps in staffing.

The London Probation Board has engaged the services of a private security firm to provide one member of staff at each approved premises between the hours of 9pm and 9am. The security staff work alongside board-employed staff. The board employees act in effect as shift leaders, and are responsible for managing the residents, including enforcement action. They are responsible also for liaison with the standby manager, or the on-call assistant chief officer, in the case of an emergency. The role of the security staff is to provide additional waking cover during the night. Their tasks include CCTV monitoring, undertaking routine patrols of the building, and supporting the board employees in carrying out their duties. None of the voluntary sector providers currently use private security staff.

The staff establishment at each approved premises managed by the London Probation Board (with the exception of Westbourne House) is as follows:

one manager
one deputy manager
five assistant managers
two night hostel assistants
one office manager

At Westbourne House the establishment is:

one manager
two deputy managers
five assistant managers

two probation service officers
four night hostel assistants
one office manager
one admin officer

As at 30 March 2007 there were a total of 14 vacancies, broken down as follows:

one office manager
seven assistant managers
five night hostel assistants

Across the four voluntary managed premises the staff establishment is:

four managers
four deputy managers
18 assistant managers
12 night hostel assistants
three admin officers
10 domestic staff

As at 30 March 2007 there are two vacancies:

assistant manager
domestic worker

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many councils have been granted funding for talking CCTV systems; and whether there are plans to extend the scheme; [135305]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of talking CCTV systems on the communities in which they are used. [135306]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 3 May 2007]*: The Respect Task Force is providing funding for 'Talking CCTV' in 20 areas, using this new technology to target litterbugs and those behaving antisocially. These areas are involving children in competitions and activities, encouraging them to use their 'pester power' in a positive way to tell the grown-ups what behaviour they want to see, and what they do not.

The 20 areas receiving Respect funding for Talking CCTV are:

Southwark
Barking and Dagenham
Reading
Harlow
Norwich
Ipswich
Plymouth
Gloucester
Derby
Northampton
Mansfield
Nottingham
Coventry
Sandwell
Wirral
Blackpool
Salford
Middlesbrough
South Tyneside
Darlington

Information on councils who might have developed talking CCTV using other funding sources is not held centrally.

The task force has no current plans to fund further roll-out to other areas.

The announcement of Respect funding for these 20 areas was made on 4 April 2007, following a successful trialling of 'Talking CCTV' in Middlesbrough. Middlesbrough council reports that it has proved effective in reducing problems such as littering, drunken and disorderly behaviour, vandalism and dispersing intimidating groups loitering in shopping areas, parks and housing estates; and that the town's cleanliness has improved dramatically.

Curfews

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people breached their home detention curfew conditions and were returned to prison in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [133413]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The following table gives the number of offenders who breached the conditions of the home detention curfew scheme pursuant to section 255(1)(a) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and whose licences were revoked and were recalled to prison.

HDC recalls 2004-06

	Breach of curfew
2004	1,719
2005	1,731
2006	1,512

Domestic Violence

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of reported cases of domestic violence led to *(a)* an arrest and *(b)* a custodial sentence in the last year for which figures are available. [135676]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the percentage of reported cases of domestic violence that led to an arrest is currently collected by the Home Office as part of the policing performance assessment framework. The figures for last year (2005-06) are listed where available by police force area in the following table.

Data on the percentage of reported cases of domestic violence that led to a custodial sentence is not routinely collected.

Policing performance assessment framework (PPAF): The domestic violence arrest rate is the percentage of incidents where an arrest was made related to the number of incidents

	Domestic violence arrest rate (percentage)
Avon and Somerset	23.2
Bedfordshire	26.8
Cambridgeshire	15.8
Cheshire	32.6
City of London	47.0
Cleveland	26.1
Cumbria	27.8

Policing performance assessment framework (PPAF): The domestic violence arrest rate is the percentage of incidents where an arrest was made related to the number of incidents

	Domestic violence arrest rate (percentage)
Derbyshire	[1]
Devon and Cornwall	23.7
Dorset	34.0
Durham	24.9
Dyfed Powys	36.9
Essex	26.9
Gloucestershire	24.7
Greater Manchester	11.4
Gwent	49.5
Hampshire	[1]
Hertfordshire	23.4
Humberside	25.1
Kent	23.5
Lancashire	33.6
Leicestershire	21.7
Lincolnshire	17.8
Merseyside	21.8
Metropolitan Police	35.5
Norfolk	28.1
North Wales	22.0
North Yorkshire	48.7
Northamptonshire	65.7
Northumbria	28.8
Nottinghamshire	13.3
South Wales	29.6
South Yorkshire	39.2
Staffordshire	35.7
Suffolk	21.1
Surrey	19.9
Sussex	28.1
Thames Valley	34.4
Warwickshire	18.2
West Mercia	26.5
West Midlands	30.8
West Yorkshire	45.8
Wiltshire	25.7

[1] Data not available

Domestic Violence: Public Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to enable public sector workers who are the victims of domestic violence to transfer to equivalent employment elsewhere in the *(a)* country and *(b)* sector in cases of need. [135754]

Mr. Coaker: The Government will actively provide support to employees to try and minimise the risk to their safety while at work, should they make it known to us that they are experiencing domestic violence.

Drugs: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has commissioned into the over-representation of ethnic minorities in drug convictions. [135841]

John Reid: The Home Office has no research under way on this topic at present. However, the Home Office, as part of the Section 95 statistics, do publish an ethnic breakdown (4+1) of those sentenced for drug offences at the Crown court by outcome.

Electronic Tagging: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders in *(a)* County Durham and *(b)* Easington constituency wear electronic tags. [124896]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Figures provided by the electronic monitoring provider Group four Securicor show that at the end of February 2007 a total of 156 offenders were being monitored in the post-code areas which most closely correspond with Durham. And of these 15 were located in the post-code areas which most closely correspond with Easington.

Genetics: Databases

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested in each financial year since 1995 who were *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 21 and *(d)* over 21 years at the time of their arrest had their DNA profiles added to the National DNA Database; and how many have subsequently had those profiles removed from the database in each case. [133153]

John Reid: The information requested on arrests is not available centrally. Information on arrests held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform is based on aggregated data collected at police force area level covering persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by gender, specific age groups (under 10, 10 to 17,18 to 20, 21 and over and unknown), ethnicity and by main offence group only.

Available information relating to subject sample profiles added to the National DNA Database in each financial year since 1995 to date by age group is set out in table 1.

The number of subject sample profiles subsequently removed from the National DNA Database is given in table 2 as follows.

Table 1: Number of DNA subject sample profiles added to the National DNA Database in each year from 1995-96 to 2006-07

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-198	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Under 16	2,507	4,964	7,886	18,764	21,055	47,735
16 to 18	5,977	14,137	20,152	37,696	31,902	59,088
19 to 20	3,923	9,511	12,888	24,395	20,290	37,978
21 and over	21,718	52,968	85,970	152,964	121,761	233,312
Unknown age on load	2	8	13	9	3	6
Total	34,127	81,588	126,909	233,828	195,011	378,119

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Under 16	60,972	55,226	56,033	68,381	87,459	90,919
16 to 18	70,534	62,823	59,403	66,954	86,052	88,522
19 to 20	43,930	38,844	36,911	37,542	49,801	51,005
21 and over	296,445	287,468	279,350	307,393	402,427	437,229

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Unknown age on load	15	33	26	16	58	62
Total	471,896	444,794	431,723	480,286	625,797	667,737
Total added 1995-2007			4,171,415			

Notes:
1. The data are for subject sample profiles taken by forces in England and Wales only (and include profiles taken from volunteers). They do not include profiles taken by Scottish forces, the Police Service for Northern Ireland, Guernsey etc.
2. The data give the age of persons when their profile was loaded to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) in each of the financial years. There are a number of subject sample profiles loaded in each financial year for which the date of birth and also therefore the age on load is unknown.
3. The age figures should be treated with caution as there are some data quality issues relating to the recording of dates of birth on the Police National Computer (PNC) by arresting police officers. Key demographic data such as the DOB data are transferred electronically from the PNC to NDNAD.
4. There are 37,804 subject sample profile records on the database for which there is no record of the financial year when they were loaded to the NDNAD. These records have not been included in the count.
5. The figures given are the numbers of DNA subject sample profiles added to the NDNAD. There are more DNA profiles held on the NDNAD than there are individuals due to DNA samples being taken from some individuals on more than one occasion (i.e. due to replicate sampling). A study into the rate of replication on the NDNAD was first carried out in 2003. Using the rate of replication, it is possible to estimate the number of individuals on the database from the number of profiles. However, as the replication rate before 2003 is unknown, to ensure consistency, the data given are the number of profiles and not individuals. The estimated rate of replication on the database for the years since 2003 is as follows:
The estimated replication rate for financial year 2003-04 was 10 per cent.
The estimated replication rate for financial year 2004-05 was 10 per cent.
The estimated replication rate for financial year 2005-06 was 11 per cent.
The estimated replication rate for the end of financial year 2006-07 was 13.7 per cent.

Table 2: Number of subject sample profiles removed from the national DNA database

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Under 16	10	5	12	29	22
16 to 18	42	4	7	17	11
19 to 20	28	6	4	8	4
21 and over	146	30	30	111	78
Unknown age on load	0	0	0	0	0
Total	256	45	53	165	115

Notes:
1. The data are for subject sample profiles taken by forces in England and Wales only.
2. The data show the number of profiles loaded in each financial year (FY) since 2002-03 to date which have since been deleted in any subsequent year i.e. 256 subject profiles loaded in FY 2002-03 have since been deleted in the period between 2002-03 and 31 March 2007.
3. Some limited information is available on the number of profiles removed between 1995 and 2002. This is by calendar year only, and no age breakdown is available. In 2002, a management information database was created which enabled more detailed information to be captured.
4. As the data represent the number of persons whose profiles have been removed from the database, it is not necessary to apply a replication rate to the figures.

Hindley Prison: Sexual Harassment

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who was responsible for commissioning the investigation into sexual harassment allegations against the Deputy Governor at HM Prison Hindley; what action was taken as a consequence; and if he will make a statement. [136122]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Governor of Hindley commissioned the investigation. The matter has been dealt with. It is not Prison Service policy to comment on personnel issues involving individual members of staff.

Illegal Firearms

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the age was of each individual convicted and given a minimum five-year sentence for possessing an illegal firearm in each of the last three years; [111175]

(2) if he will list the countries of origin of the weapons which were possessed by the individuals convicted and given a minimum five-year sentence for possessing an illegal firearm in each of the last three years; and what the estimated age was of each such weapon; [111177]

(3) how many individuals were convicted and given a minimum five-year sentence for possessing an illegal firearm in each of the last three years, broken down by type of crime committed. [111176]

Mr. Coaker: The minimum five year sentence applies only to persons aged 18 or over and came into force for offences committed from 22 January 2004. The available information, relating to England and Wales for the years 2004 and 2005, is shown in the tables. Information for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

The court proceedings database does not hold data on the country of origin of weapons possessed by those convicted of possession of an illegal firearm nor the ages of such weapons as the individual circumstances surrounding offences are not held centrally.

Table 1: Persons aged 18 and over sentenced and those given custody for firearms possession offences involving mandatory 5 year term, by offence, England and Wales

Offence and sentence	2004	2005
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition (Firearms Act 1968, s 5(1)(a), (ab), (aba), (ac), (ad), (ae), (af), or (c))		
Total sentenced	686	353
Given immediate custody	240	233
Of which: 5 years or over	75	142
Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object (Firearms Act 1968, s 5(1A)(a))		
Total sentenced	1	—
Given immediate custody	1	—
Of which: 5 years or over	1	—

Table 2: Persons aged 18 and over sentenced to mandatory 5 year term (or over) for possession of firearms, by age, England and Wales

Age	2004	2005
18	4	3
19	3	7
20	6	8
21	4	8
22	4	4
23	2	9
24	4	7
25	8	8
26	3	4
27	3	9
28	3	9

Table 2: Persons aged 18 and over sentenced to mandatory 5 year term (or over) for possession of firearms, by age, England and Wales

Age	2004	2005
29	3	2
30	2	3
31	1	4
32	1	3
33	2	1
34	1	2
35	4	7
36	1	3
37	—	6
38	2	2
39	1	4
40	1	3
41	4	4
42	2	5
43	—	2
44	1	3
45	1	1
46	1	2
47	—	—
48	—	2
49	1	—
50	—	—
51	1	1
54	—	1
56	—	1
57	2	—
58	—	1
59	—	1
61	—	1
63	—	—
64	—	1
Total	76	142

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Home Office

Life Imprisonment

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are on waiting lists for first stage lifer units; and whether he plans to provide courses in local prisons for prisoners serving indeterminate public protection sentences. [133879]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

There is no centrally held waiting list for first stage lifer units, but there were 2,603 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences held in local prisons, as at 13 April 2007. The majority of them were waiting for transfer to first stage lifer prisons, but the figure also includes a small number of recalled life sentence prisoners who will not be on the waiting lists for main lifer centres.

Local prisons offer a range of courses and other interventions, some of which are suitable for prisoners serving indeterminate sentences. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is currently conducting a review of the systems and services for life sentenced prisoners and prisoners serving indeterminate public protection sentences.

Open Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners serving sentences of *(a)* 12 months or less and *(b)* between 12 months and 24 months were housed in open conditions in the prison estate in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. [133981]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Figures on the numbers of prisoners under immediate custodial sentence of *(a)* under 12 months and *(b)* 12 months to less than 24 months, in the specified list of open prison establishments in England and Wales in the years 2005 to 2007, can be found in the following table. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Immediate custodial sentenced population in open prisons[1] in England and Wales by sentence length February 2005 to March 2007

	Less than12 months	12 months to less than 24 months
February 2005	524	485
March 2005	552	483
April 2005	518	478
May 2005	533	500
June 2005	524	484
July 2005	535	464
August 2005	530	470
September 2005	502	449
October 2005	527	454
November 2005	445	417
December 2005	342	384
January 2006	395	406
February 2006	432	400
March 2006	478	379
April 2006	419	412
May 2006	393	368
June 2006	354	346
July 2006	395	359
August 2006	445	385
September 2006	522	416
October 2006	567	424
November 2006	443	339
December 2006	354	376
January 2007	377	386
February 2007	366	368
March 2007	411	392

[1] Open prisons are those stated on the prison service annual report (Ford, Hewell Grange, Hollesley Bay, Kirkham, Leyhill, North Sea Camp, Standford Hill, Sudbury, Askham Grange, East Sutton Park and Thorn Cross) and Moorland Open, Prescoed and Spring Hill. It does not include semi-open prisons.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Head of the Management Succession and Selection Unit in HM Prison Service was involved in the managed move of Paul Baker to the Deputy Governor position at HM Prison Pentonville; and if he will make a statement. [136124]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The appointment of Paul Baker to the role of Deputy Governor of HM Prison Pentonville was decided by the Deputy Director General of the Prison Service, in his role as the Chairperson of the Succession Planning Committee for the Prison Service. The Head of Management, Succession and Selection Unit was not involved in making this decision.

Prison Service: Compensation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for the £16,589,000 paid by the Prison Service as special payments in 2005-06 other than compensation to staff and prisoners. [135338]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Of the £16,589,000 paid as special payments, £255,000 were payments made to third parties—generally members of the public in settlement of claims for injury, losses of property and in two cases associated with deaths in custody. This figure also included the legal costs associated with settling the claims.

Prison Service: Electronic Surveillance

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what level of authority is required at prison establishments for the covert access to and monitoring of staff e-mails; how many staff were subject to covert viewing of their e-mails at each prison establishment in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [136119]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Governors submit requests to access staff email accounts covertly via the Professional Standards Unit at Prison Service Headquarters. Approval for covert access comes from the Head of Professional Standards Unit (or a member of the Senior Management Team in their absence). It is HMPS policy not to comment or provide data on any specific covert activity as this may undermine the attempt to tackle wrongdoing or corruption.

Prison Service: First Aid

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what skills are required of prison officers to deal with medical emergencies. [121794]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 and Instruction to Governors 32/1996 require governors to ensure that there is a sufficient level of first aid provision to deal with immediate medical emergencies. First aid volunteers, including officers, must attend a training course approved by the Health and Safety Executive. In addition, all staff in contact with prisoners are trained in basic suicide prevention procedures, though many are also trained to higher levels.

Prison Service: Working Hours

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outstanding number of time off in lieu hours was in HM Prison Service in the latest period for which figures are available; how such hours are accounted for in the annual accounts of the Service; and if he will make a statement. [136125]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Prison Service accounts for outstanding time off in lieu hours in its annual accounts. At 31 March 2006, there were 95,625 outstanding hours. An accrual is made in the accounts for the value of these hours using an average salary cost per grade. While not explicitly stated in the accounts, these costs form part of the overall staff remuneration costs.

Prisoners Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners released from jail about which the police are not notified by the prison authorities; and if he will make a statement. [123786]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

No estimate has been made of the number of prisoners released from prison about whom the police are not notified.

The police are routinely informed by prisons of the imminent discharge dates of those subject to multi agency public protection arrangements level two and three, those who are prolific and other priority offenders, and those released under the Home Detention Curfew Scheme.

In addition, the police are sent information on a weekly basis of all those who it is known will return to their area on release. The information is sent to Force Intelligence Bureaux six weeks prior to the release date and every week thereafter until release.

Prisoners: Females

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce self-harming by women prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [136382]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Prison Service's suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy for women prisoners focuses on dealing with the underlying factors that can lead them to harm themselves, including previous abuse, substance misuse and mental health problems—which are experienced by a very high proportion of women in custody. Women prisoners benefit from a number of interventions including:

individual crisis counselling for women prisoners who self-harm;

investment and planning to ensure progress on the detoxification strategy in women's prisons;

introduction of a training pack for all staff working with women in custody, which includes a module on the health and wellbeing of women prisoners;

£1 million from the Department of Health has been allocated to women's prisons to be spent on the recruitment of psychiatric nurses, and all women's prisons now have mental health in-reach facilities.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign prisoners moved from Ford Open Prison to closed conditions in May 2006 were re-categorised to a higher security classification prior to their move. [127551]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

No. The foreign national prisoners were removed to closed conditions as category D prisoners so that their individual categorisations could be reassessed.

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convicted prisoners who have completed their sentences are being held in prisons in England and Wales; and on which dates each such prisoner completed their sentence. [128499]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the numbers of time-served prisoners within all prison establishments in England and Wales would not be available and would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Transport

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average monthly cost of prisoner transport services has been *(a)* in the last two years and *(b)* during the activation of Operation Safeguard. [135834]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The average monthly cost of contracted prisoner transport in the last two years was £11.9 million. Separate figures for contracted prisoner transport that cover the period of Operation Safeguard are not kept and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action was taken following the death of Paul Day in the management of segregation units at prison establishments; and if he will make a statement. [136130]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked reply.

Prison Service Order 1810 on 'Maintaining Order in Prisons' was introduced in July 2005. It requires the individual case management of disruptive prisoners and the transfer of key information from sending to receiving prisons when any individual is transferred between prisons and segregation units. It also stopped the informal transfer or return arrangements between establishments. The Prison Service launched a Segregation Unit Development Strategy in January 2005, which aimed to ensure that prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm are managed and supported outside of segregation if at all possible. There is also a review under way of all segregation policies. This includes specialist input from the National Offender Management Service, Prisoner Health, and the Prison and Probation Ombudsman and seeks to develop new strategies in relation to mental health care and alternatives to segregation.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the extent of *(a)* the use of false samples, *(b)* the mis-use of refrigeration, *(c)* inadequate supervision in the collection of samples and *(d)* collusion (i) among officers and (ii) between officers and inmates and *(e)* administration errors in the process of mandatory drug testing in prison establishments; what steps he is taking (A) to monitor and (B) to prevent abuses of mandatory drug testing; and if he will make a statement. [136129]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

No drug testing system is entirely foolproof but the mandatory drug testing policy and procedures of the National Offender Management Service are fully in line with best practice and are designed to reduce to a minimum the possibility that the process can be compromised. A robust system is in place to provide checks and balances and good management oversight including:

rigorous chain of custody procedures;

rigorous laboratory procedures;

monitoring by Area Drug Co-ordinators during routine visits to prisons;

Prison Service Standard Audits and a self-audit programme at establishment level to monitor performance against the Drug Strategy Standard 10 which requires prisons to conduct mandatory testing in line with the requirements of Prison Service Order 3 601 (Mandatory Drug Testing);

Internal Audit review; and

an independent Quality Assurance adviser who monitors the efficacy of the contracted drug testing laboratory on behalf of NOMS.

An assessment of the extent of the risks identified is as follows:

(a) use of false samples, the procedures for collecting samples are designed to minimise the risk of adulteration, dilution or the provision of a false sample. Research published by the Office for National Statistics in 2005 reported that around 3 per cent. of those prisoners tested admitted to an attempt to subvert the MDT process. In 2005-06 the laboratory reported suspicions about less than 1 per cent. of samples. Attempts to compromise MDT samples rarely prevent the detection of drugs;

(b) refrigeration stabilises samples and maximises the ability to detect drugs. Lack of refrigeration is however unlikely to affect significantly the ability to detect the majority of drugs;

(c) inadequate supervision in the collection of samples a Prison Service Internal Audit conducted in 2006 found that establishments were collecting samples correctly;

(d) collusion the Prison Service Professional Standards Unit has responsibility for tackling staff corruption in conjunction with professional standards managers working at area and local level. There is no evidence that collusion in relation to drug tests is widespread; and

(e) administrative errors a Prison Service Internal Audit conducted in 2006 identified some minor administrative errors but found that they did not affect the validity of the tests. Prisons were reminded of the need to follow good administrative practice.

Prisons: Education

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length is of an educational course in prisons in England and Wales. [129914]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not collected centrally.

With the introduction of the Learning and Skills Council-led delivery arrangements for offender learning in England from 31 July 2006, data on the average length of an educational course in prison will increasingly become available for adults, young offenders and juveniles in custody.

Separate arrangements apply under the devolved Administration for Wales.

Prisons: Health Services

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that people held in private prisons who claim *(a)* that their health care needs are not being met and *(b)* that they suffer mistreatment have access to a complaints procedure. [135829]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Prisoners held in privately-managed prisons who wish to complain about their health care provision do currently have access to a complaints process. Under the first tier of that process, a complaint should be made locally within the prison in line with the usual complaints procedure. If the complainant remains dissatisfied, it is open to him to complain to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman. Prisoners held in privately-managed prisons who claim to have suffered mistreatment on non-medical issue are able to complain using the usual complaints process. If, having made a complaint internally, the prisoner remains dissatisfied, it is open to him to ask the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman to consider the matter.

Probation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders in each of the 42 probation areas in England and Wales breached their *(a)* community sentence requirements, *(b)* licences and *(c)* parole conditions while under the supervision of the Probation Service in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and what steps were taken to remedy such breaches. [135364]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Information for England and Wales on the completion rates for the main types of community sentence, for each year since 1995, can be found in Table 5.1 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library. Information on the number of offenders recalled to prison for breaching their licence conditions can be found in Tables 10.7, 10.8 and 10.9 of the same publication. The reliability of those data at local area level is not sufficiently robust for publication. Generally, compliance and rigorous enforcement are essential if community sentences and licence supervision are to provide an effective punishment and deterrent, in which the public has confidence. The latest performance figures for the National Probation Service (covering April 2006—February 2007) indicate that 92 per cent. of relevant offenders have enforcement action initiated within 10 working days as required by National Standards; in 1999 it was just 44 per cent. Since 2002-03 the service has also been measured against a compliance target, which measures the proportion of orders and licences that reach the six months stage without requiring breach action. On this basis compliance has improved from 62 per cent. in 2002-03 to 72 per cent. in 2006-07 (April 2006—February 2007).

Rape

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the law relating to consent in rape cases where a complainant was under the influence of alcohol. [134885]

Mr. Coaker: Section 74 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 defines consent in the context of sexual offences by stating that:

"a person consents if he agrees by choice, and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice".

Where a complainant is intoxicated, this may be relevant to the question of whether or not they have the capacity to consent.

In the public consultation 'Convicting Rapists and Protecting Victims—Justice for Victims of Rape', we consulted on whether a statutory definition of capacity was needed. We are considering the responses to the consultation exercise and other relevant information, including the recent Court of Appeal case of Bree. We hope to make our response to the consultation, including our assessment of this particular issue, known shortly.

Sentencing

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are serving indeterminate public protection sentences. [133786]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

As at 20 April 2007, the number of prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection was 2,547.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average minimum term has been of indefinite sentences of public protection. [135847]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

A research study carried out by the Home Office into prisoners received into prisons in England and Wales under indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) between April 2005 and March 2006, showed that the median tariff (minimum term) given to these prisoners was 30 months. Findings from the research were published in Offender Management Caseload

Statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners on an indefinite sentence of public protection have served longer than their tariff. [135851]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Data taken from individual case records held by the Pre-Release Section of the National Offender Management Service indicate that, as at 27 April 2007, tariff had expired in 173 cases where offenders had been sentenced to Imprisonment for Public Protection.

Sexual Offences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who started the sexual offender treatment programme in each of the last five years completed the programme. [123776]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Figures for community sex offender treatment programmes are only available for the last financial year (2005-06). In that period there were 1,408 commencements and 974 completions recorded for the programme. For sex offender treatment programmes completed in custody between 15 June 2006 and 23 February 2007, there were 613 completions, and 32 non-completions, a non-completion rate of 5.2 per cent. This is estimated to be representative of previous years non-completion rates.

World War II: Genocide

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on an EU-wide law on holocaust denial. [134518]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 April 2007]*: A draft European framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia has been discussed over several years, including at the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council in spring 2003 and summer 2005. Agreement was not reached on either occasion. Negotiations restarted under the German presidency of the European Union, and a revised draft framework decision was discussed at the JHA Council in February 2007. A general approach was reached at the JHA Council on 19 April 2007. UK Ministers participated in all of these discussions.

This framework decision is not a European Union wide law on holocaust denial. It requires member states to criminalise the most serious racist and xenophobic acts where they are carried out in a manner likely to incite violence or hatred and are threatening, abusive or insulting. Under our existing domestic law, this would only include denial of the Holocaust where it met all of these conditions. The framework decision sets a common EU standard for the most serious crimes but does not prevent member states from making other acts, including holocaust denial, criminal offences under their domestic law.

Young Offenders

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding he has provided to the Youth Offending Service in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [127354]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Funding for the years in question to youth offending teams by the Youth Justice Board, police and probation is contained in the following tables. The YJB funding figures relate to core grant only and do not include additional grants to support effective practice and for programmes such as ISSP.

YOT funding for England and Wales

	Youth Justice Board	Police	Probation
2002-03	46,723,227	19,162,717	16,209,958
2003-04	47,542,333	20,948,650	17,187,426
2004-05	48,730,892	22,097,262	17,566,056
2005-06	50,358,959	23,382,337	17,533,136
2006-07	[1]43,251,232	23,130,989	17,969,258

YOT funding for Gloucestershire

	Youth Justice Board	Police	Probation
2002-03	404,941	213,000	124,000
2003-04	413,381	268,205	131,313
2004-05	[1]349,742	270,225	132,000
2005-06	[1]369,008	273,092	133,000
2006-07	[1]379,379	278,682	133,500

[1] These figures do not include the ring-fenced funding within the Young People Substance Misuse Partnership grant (from 2004-05).

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what *(a)* instructions are issued to (i) staff in the House of Commons and (ii) hon. Members and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136089]

Nick Harvey: The new online induction course to the Parliamentary Network, which all new users (Members, their staff and staff of the House) must complete, includes guidance on shutting down personal computers each day. In addition to this, all computers have Microsoft power saving settings enabled; these also reduce energy consumption.

While it is possible to switch off computers centrally each night, at present there are no plans to do so since unsaved work could be lost, and staff and Members working late could be seriously inconvenienced. These arrangements are kept under review.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135735]

Mr. Thomas: DFID currently has 48 sites that receive departmental funding. Under the transformational Government website rationalisation strategy we are in the process of reducing this number. Details of costs and the number of visitors for four of the main DFID funded sites are given in the following table. Compiling visitor and cost information for all 48 sites could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Website	Average visitors per month		Cost of establishing the site		Annual cost of maintaining the site	
	Date	Number	Date	(£)	Date	(£)
DFID main site www.dfid.gov.uk	2006	60,000	Not available for original site set up over 10 years ago		2007	101,312
	January to April 2007	70,000	Not available for original site set up over 10 years ago		—	—
Developments Magazine www.developments.org.uk	June 2006 to April 2007	11,000	Not available		2007	12,000
Research for Development portal www.research4development.info	April 2006 to March 2007	3,100	2005	293,464	2006	366,067
					2007	460,493
AIDSPortal www.aidsportal.org	May 2006 to April 2007	4,000	June 2004 to October 2006	355,000	2007	27,500

Iraq: Asylum

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assistance the UK is providing to *(a)* Syria and *(b)* Jordan for refugees who have fled sectarian violence in Iraq; and if he will make a statement; [136353]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to protect refugees who have fled sectarian violence in Iraq. [136337]

Hilary Benn: We are in close touch with our partners and agencies about the situation regarding displaced Iraqis inside Iraq and in the region.

In January, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) launched a $60 million appeal to address the influx of refugees into Iraq's neighbouring countries and the plight of displaced people inside Iraq (this is almost fully funded). The money will go towards the provision of basic services and protection for internally displaced Iraqis and refugees, registration, and needs assessments. DFID has contributed £1.5 million to this appeal, part of £310 million that we have spent on humanitarian assistance in 2007.

Inside Iraq, our support is providing urgently needed medical supplies, improved health facilities and restoring water and sanitation infrastructure.

In April, an international UNHCR conference in Geneva was successful in drawing international attention to the plight of the displaced Iraqis inside Iraq and in the region, and recognising the burden this places on host communities and countries. The main outcome of the conference was the Government of Iraq's commitment to take the lead in providing support and security for its citizens, including for those who have fled the country. The conference also agreed a new UN strategic framework for humanitarian action in Iraq, which will coordinate UN action in support of the Iraqi Government's efforts.

Iraq: Overseas Aid

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what proportion of Government assistance to internally displaced people in Iraq is channelled through *(a)* international NGOs, *(b)* Iraqi NGOs, *(c)* the Iraqi Government and *(d)* UK military forces; [136351]

(2) what Government funding and resources for internally displaced people in Iraq *(a)* was allocated in each year since 2001 and *(b)* will be provided in each of the next three years. [136352]

Hilary Benn: DFID's assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) in Iraq is currently channelled through internationally mandated organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). We are currently not funding any international NGOs, the Iraqi Government or UK military forces.

In terms of DFID assistance to IDPs, we have made the following disbursements since 2001:

	ICRC	UNHCR	IOM
2001	3,500,000	—	—
2002	2,000,000	—	—
2003	19,000,000	1,750,000	—
2004	—	—	—
2005	10,000,000	—	—
2006	4,000,000	—	—

	ICRC	UNHCR	IOM
2007	7,000,000	1,500,000	1,000,000
Total	45,500,000	3,250,000	1,000,000

We have not yet allocated our resources for the next three years; however, we will continue to follow the IDP situation closely and will work with international partners to respond to identified need.

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1726W, what steps she is taking to reduce the number of Freedom of Information requests awaiting allocation to case officers at the Information Commissioner's office; and if she will make a statement. [136512]

Vera Baird: The Information Commissioner is an independent body created by statute. On 26 October 2006, the Commissioner laid before Parliament a report describing his progress in eliminating the freedom of information case backlog and setting out his future plans. In April 2007, he published his Corporate Plan 2007-10, which sets out his strategy for the next three years.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Women and Work Commission

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress has been made on the Government Action Plan: Implementing the Women and Work Commission recommendations; and if she will make a statement. [136432]

Meg Munn: On 2 April we launched a report setting out the comprehensive programme of action being taken forward by Government to reduce the gender pay and opportunities gap one year on from the Women and Work Commission's recommendations. This included: details of a £500,000 fund to create more quality part-time work; and the development of an Equality Check Tool to allow employers to see where they could improve their practices in relation to gender equality issues. I will also continue to chair a project board of Whitehall officials to drive forward the women's economic participation agenda.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Asthma

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many asthma-related emergency admissions were recorded in each health trust area in each of the last three years. [136064]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Departments: Billing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 890-1W, on Departments: billing, for what reason some Northern Ireland Departments keep a record of discounts offered and received on invoices while others do not; and what steps he has taken to standardise the way in which *(a)* payments are processed, *(b)* financial returns are made and audited and *(c)* financial records are kept by Departments. [134893]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Farmers: Incomes

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effect of the 13.3 per cent. reduction in incomes from farming in 2006. [133402]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Fire Services: Manpower

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service were employed in each fire district in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years, broken down by grade. [136060]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Fire Services: Pay

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage change in pay each grade of member of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service received in each of the last six years. [136061]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Groomsport School

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of the action plan for the closure of Groomsport primary school. [136049]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* assistance (i) has been and (ii) is planned to be provided by his Department to help Groomsport primary school staff prepare for the closure of the school. [136050]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the programme for the closure of Groomsport Primary School. [136086]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Health: Research

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what health research programmes received funding from his Department in each of the last six years; how much funding was received in each case; and if he will make a statement. [136058]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Home Information Packs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the introduction of home information packs in Northern Ireland. [136062]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Hospices: Finance

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding was allocated by his Department to hospices in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years, broken down by hospice. [136059]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

New Businesses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many new businesses have opened in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [135044]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Northern Ireland Executive: Telephone Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what revenue was generated from telephone helplines connected to Northern Ireland Government Departments and Agencies in each of the last six years, broken down by helpline. [136057]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Oil

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many oil spills there were at *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial premises in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [135587]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Olympic Games: Greater London

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1446W, on Olympic Games: Greater London, which organisations have representatives sitting on the Olympic NI Task Force; and what recommendations the task force has made *(a)* to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and *(b)* to the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games. [136333]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what initiatives have been identified by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in discussions with the Olympic NI Task Force, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic games as being suitable Olympic projects for Northern Ireland; and what assessment he has made of the potential benefit of these initiatives to Northern Ireland. [136334]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Recycling: Industrial Wastes

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to encourage recycling amongst the business community in Northern Ireland. [136046]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Shipbuilding

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Government are taking to assist the Northern Irish shipbuilding industry. [135043]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Government are taking to encourage the growth of tourism in Northern Ireland. [135035]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Office was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134063]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office participates in a contract, let by the Scottish Executive, which allows for the purchase of photocopy paper from recycled sources. All areas with purchasing authority have been advised to procure recycled paper for the purpose of photocopying.

The Office obtains printed publications from a variety of sources. Figures are not held centrally of the percentage of recycled paper used in printed publications. However, the Office routinely requires that printers source paper that has a minimum of 75 per cent. recycled content.

Devolution

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he received requests from the *(a)* Scottish Parliament and *(b)* Scottish Executive for the transfer of reserved matters from Westminster to Holyrood in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [134787]

David Cairns: Section 30(2) of the Scotland Act provides a mechanism whereby Schedule 5 to the Scotland Act 1998 can be modified by an Order in Council, subject to the agreement of both the UK and Scottish Parliaments. It allows the boundaries of the Scottish Parliament's legislative competence to be adjusted by removing existing reservations, adding new ones or updating existing ones. Scotland's settlement was always intended to have scope for flexibility and section 30(2) provides for that. The following Section 30(2) Orders have been made since 2002:

2002/1629 (The Scotland Act 1998 (Modifications of Schedule 5) Order 2002)

2004/3392 (The Scotland Act 1998 (Modifications of Schedule 5) Order 2004)

2005/865 (The Scotland Act 1998 (Modifications of Schedule 5) Order 2005)

2005/866 (The Scotland Act 1998 (Modifications of Schedule 5) Order 2005)

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Administered Incentive Pricing

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) when he expects the spectrum on which Administered Incentive Pricing is charged to change usage; [136082]

(2) what revenues he expects to be raised from the charging of Administered Incentive Pricing on spectrum *(a)* in 2007 and *(b)* in each of the next five years, broken down by sector; and what the revenues were from each sector in 2006. [136083]

Margaret Hodge: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by his Department with outside suppliers in the last five years as referred to in the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1489-90W, on Information Technology. [135623]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has one main Information Technology contract. This is a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Agreement awarded to Fujitsu Services which has been in place for more than five years. In 2005 the Department awarded a Competed Services Framework Arrangement to six suppliers to enable an element of competition for IT projects. A small number of lower value IT contracts (less than £500,000) have been awarded through this arrangement. The largest project awarded outside of the PFI Agreement during 2006-07 is shown as follows.

Construction Industry Statistics Service

	£ million
Original estimate	1.6
Contracted cost	1.4

Post Offices

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assessment he has made of whether the practice of establishing post offices in major retail outlets is being implemented in compliance with the rule which disallows the establishment of sub-post offices within one mile of another post office outlet; [136087]

(2) if he will assess the merits of providing compensation to any sub-post office in circumstances where its business is adversely affected by the establishment of post office branches in nearby major retail outlets. [136088]

Jim Fitzpatrick: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook the Managing Director has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Written Questions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the reason was for the time taken to respond to the Question answered on 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1092W, on Mr. David Mills, tabled by the hon. Member for Devizes on 27 February 2006. [125362]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials wished to look carefully and fully into all the

background on the original question, which covered a wide range of cross cutting issues including UN and EU sanctions, Iran and commercial matters. The FCO regrets the amount of time this took.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how his Department plans to respond to the advice from the Air Quality Expert Group's recently published report Air Quality and Climate Change: A UK Perspective that reversal of the growing trend for long-distance commuting and the growth in air travel would be highly beneficial for both local air quality and the global atmosphere. [136438]

Gillian Merron: The Department has noted this report which covers a wide range of issues. The Department's transport strategy as outlined in "The Future of Transport" White Paper (DfT 2004), "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper (DfT 2003) and subsequent Progress Report (DfT 2006), sets out a sustainable approach to transport issues to achieve a modern, efficient and sustainable transport system which balances the increasing demand for travel against our goals of protecting the environment and improving the quality of life for everyone. The Department will continue to reflect this balance, including that between air quality and climate change, when developing policy in the future.

Biofuels: Garages and Petrol Stations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in placing biofuel pumps in petrol station forecourts. [136444]

Dr. Ladyman: Biofuels are available in low blends at well over 100 filling stations in the UK. In this form, they do not need special pumps or storage facilities: they are dispensed via standard petrol and diesel pumps, and motorists will not generally be aware that the fuel they are buying contains a small amount of biofuel. By 2010, we expect that the Government's Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) will mean that the great majority of petrol and diesel sold in the UK will contain up to 5 per cent. biofuel.

Biofuels can also be used in high blends (for example, ethanol can be blended into petrol at a mixture of up to 85 per cent.). This needs vehicle modifications and separate refuelling pumps. A number of vehicles are on sale which can run on these blends, and the Government are supporting these through various fiscal incentives. This Department has also grant-funded the installation of 14 bioethanol E85 pumps. The location of these pumps can be found via:

http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/fleet/Vehicles/Alternativefuels/Fundingforalternativerefuellingstations/

Cycling: Highway Code

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account is taken in the revised Highway Code of the statement in the Response to Consultation Report of March 2007 that road users other than cyclists need to be made aware that the choice to use cycle facilities remains with the cyclist and there is no law compelling their use. [136480]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highway Code states that "where possible" cyclists should use cycle lanes. This means that while they are encouraged to do so, they are not compelled. The difference between legal requirements and advisory rules is made clear in the introduction to the code.

In response to the views raised by respondents to the consultation, the rules for cyclists were amended. Some 30 other rules throughout the Highway Code were revised to add emphasis to the need for consideration of cyclists by other road users.

The Highway Code as a whole draws more attention to vulnerable road users, including cyclists, than previous versions. It also specifically instructs drivers to pay attention to bus and cycle lanes, as cyclists may be pulling out of them, or using roads alongside.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135163]

Gillian Merron: The number of grievance procedures initiated in the Department for Transport in the last year has been 147.

The figure is a significant increase on previous years. There are several reasons for this including:

Highways Agency figures are now included which were previously not collected centrally;

The Government Car Despatch and despatch Agency became part of the Department in November 2005;

Staff have an increased awareness of the procedures available to them;

Managers are encouraged to be pro-active and deal with issues as they occur;

In Department for Transport (Central), the procedures for disputing annual performance reports was changed to include using the Department's grievance procedure with the aim of resolving such disputes within a fixed timescale.

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134821]

Gillian Merron: The number of complaints of bullying investigated in the Department for Transport in the last 12 months was 39. Of these, seven cases were upheld and a further 14 are still being investigated.

The Department has in place arrangements for informing all staff about policies on ensuring that the work environment is free from harassment or bullying.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135381]

Gillian Merron: The number of complaints of sexual harassment investigated in the Department for Transport in the last 12 months was five. Of these four cases are still being investigated.

The Department has in place arrangements for informing all staff about policies on ensuring that the work environment is free from harassment and bullying.

Driving: Licensing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many people tried to obtain driving licences fraudulently in each of the last five years; [134796]

(2) how many cases of driving licence application fraud the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency detected in each of the last five years. [134801]

Dr. Ladyman: Statistics are not available on the number of people who tried to obtain driving licences fraudulently over the last five years. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) reports suspect applications to the police and other appropriate authorities for investigation. Statistics recording the numbers of suspect applications for driving licences detected by DVLA have been kept since July 2005. Between July 2005 and March 2006, a total of 1,484 suspect applications were detected. Between April 2006 and March 2007, a total of 2,463 suspect applications were detected. These applications were deemed to be suspect because of concern over the authenticity of the supporting identity documents or the accuracy of declarations made on the application form.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cases of identity fraud the *(a)* Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and *(b)* Driving Standards Agency investigated in each of the last five years. [134800]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) operates stringent identity checking procedures so that driving licences are granted only after it is satisfied with the evidence of identity supplied.

DVLA does not itself investigate suspected cases of identity fraud but refers to the appropriate authorities any cases where there appears to be a fraudulent application to obtain a driving licence. Statistics recording the numbers of suspect applications for driving licences detected by DVLA have been kept since July 2005. Between July 2005 and March 2006, a total of 1,484 suspect applications were detected. Between April 2006 and March 2007, a total of 2,463 suspect applications were detected.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) takes allegations of impersonation of driving test candidates extremely seriously and has established a dedicated team to protect the integrity of its processes. DSA investigates incidents of impersonation at driving test that are both reported to it and those that the Agency detects through proactive investigation.

Since 2004, with co-operation from the police, DSA investigations into driving test impersonations have resulted in the arrest of 293 people in connection with a total of 729 offences.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many foreign nationals *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were granted UK driving licences in each of the last 10 years. [134802]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available. Statistics relating to the nationality of applicants for driving licences are not kept.

Fuels: Carbon

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with industry on reducing carbon levels in transportation fuels. [136443]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government have announced that, as a way of reducing the lifecycle carbon impact of transport fuels, it will introduce a Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) in April 2008. The RTFO has been developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from the different industry sectors which will be affected by it. Copies of the Government's consultation document on the RTFO are available in the House Libraries and also via:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/roads/rtfo

Heathrow Airport

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of air transport movements which would take place at Heathrow if a third runway is built and mixed mode is introduced; [136417]

(2) whether the estimate of 720,000 air transport movements each year at Heathrow if a third runway is built referred to in the Air Transport White Paper Progress Report 2006 includes an assumption that mixed mode will be introduced. [136418]

Gillian Merron: As announced in the Future of Air Transport White Paper, the Government are carrying out a study on the future development of Heathrow. This is assessing the air quality and noise impacts, in particular, of both a possible third runway and of using the existing runways in mixed mode operations. The Government intend to consult on its findings later in 2007.

The December 2006 Progress Report on the Future of Air Transport White Paper indicated that mixed mode operations on the existing two runways at Heathrow could provide up to 15 per cent. more air traffic movements than the current annual limit of 480,000. It also said that a third runway could

eventually support up to 720,000 movements but this does not assume the use of mixed mode operations on the existing two runways.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the forthcoming consultation into mixed-mode, the Cranford Agreement, westerly preference, a third runway and a sixth terminal at Heathrow will also include consultation on the new flight paths which would be required if a third runway went ahead. [136414]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 9 May 2007]*: The December 2006 Progress Report on the Future of Air Transport White Paper indicated that the Government would consult in 2007 on the future development of Heathrow. The consultation will present the results of the Government's study to assess the air quality and noise impacts, in particular, of both a possible third runway and of using the existing runways in mixed mode operations.

The consultation will also describe the flight paths that have been assumed for this study. However, any changes to air routes would not take place without first being subject to separate consultation under the Civil Aviation Authority's Airspace Change Process.

Heathrow Airport: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects the new emissions cost assessment designed to inform decisions on major increases in aviation capacity as outlined in the recent Progress Report on the Aviation White Paper to apply to proposals *(a)* to introduce mixed mode and *(b)* to construct a sixth terminal or a third runway at Heathrow; who is involved in developing this emissions cost assessment; and what level of consultation there will be in developing the process. [136437]

Gillian Merron: We intend to launch a full public consultation on the development of an emissions cost assessment for the aviation sector in the first half of 2007. The consultation proposals are being developed by the Department in liaison with other Government Departments.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency achieved its target of halving the estimated number of unregistered vehicles in the UK by 2007. [134713]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has a target to reduce by 31 January 2007 the number of persistent vehicle excise duty evaders by 50 per cent. from the baseline figure from June 2002. Work to assess whether this target has been met will commence in July with the results to follow later in the year.

Many of these vehicles are likely to be incorrectly registered. However, there is no target specifically to halve the number of unregistered vehicles by 2007.

Railway Stations: Access

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many railway stations will receive funding from the Access for All scheme. [136595]

Mr. Tom Harris: We have announced 92 stations in England and Wales that we expect Network Rail to improve up to 2011 and are developing the list of stations that will be included in the programme between 2012 and 2015.

Work at more than 500 other stations has been approved up to March 2008 under the Access for All Small Schemes programme. There will be further rounds of bidding each year until at least 2015.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which five train services had the highest number of passengers in excess of capacity levels in each of the 10 largest cities in the UK in the most recent period for which figures are available. [135917]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department only has access to data covering Passengers in Excess of Capacity (PIXC), which applies to weekday commuter trains arriving in London between 07:00 and 09:59 and those departing London between 16:00 and 18:59.

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) publishes PIXC figures in its National Rail Trends publication; the most recent version covering 2005 was published on 5 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House.

Railways: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has made to help develop rail infrastructure in Shropshire on the line between Wolverhampton and Central Wales. [136161]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail plans to complete line speed improvements between Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury to achieve a 90 mph line speed in 2008-09. It is also considering signalling and track changes to permit direct access to platform 3 of Shrewsbury station from the Craven Arms direction. The Department's long term rail strategy, to be published in the summer, will include our high level output specification for the passenger railway. Network Rail's detailed plans will then be updated in its Strategic Business Plan to be published in October 2007.

Railways: Wales

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with his Welsh counterpart on improvements to the Cambrian line between Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth. [136160]

Mr. Tom Harris: Our respective officials have discussed train operating performance on the Cambrian line; potential funding by the Welsh Assembly Government of an hourly train service on the route between Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth including the necessary improvements to infrastructure; and improvements to Machynlleth Train Maintenance Depot.

Road Signs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the operating costs were of *(a)* electronic messaging signs and *(b)* electronic variable messaging signs in each of the last 10 years. [134658]

Dr. Ladyman: Operating costs for both electronic message signs and electronic variable messaging signs on the Highways Agency network are not separately identifiable. They are maintained as an integral part of traffic technology systems. Data are available for the period 2001-02 to 2006-07 in the following table.

	Cost (£ million)
2001-02	23
2002-03	40
2003-04	29
2004-05	20
2005-06	32
2006-07	32

The costs in the table are for maintaining all traffic technology, including electronic messaging signs, but excluding energy and technology renewal scheme costs.

TREASURY

Education for All

1. **Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he expects to make on the Education for All initiative in 2007; and what discussions he has had with international finance ministers on this issue. [136445]

Mr. Gordon Brown: On 2 May the UK co-convened an international conference with the European Commission and World Bank. From the UK's overall £8.5 billion pledge, we announced a long term commitment of £500 million to support 10-year education plans in Tanzania and Ethiopia. We welcomed the strong progress from African countries—with 15 countries having completed 10-year plans and 13 of these endorsed. The UK will continue to work with other donors to ensure the necessary funds for education are committed.

Fiscal Policy

16. **Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of his fiscal policy on the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [136461]

John Healey: In the last decade, the introduction of strict fiscal rules and clear objectives for fiscal policy have put the public finances on a more sound and sustainable footing than in previous economic cycles.

This responsible management of public finances, in line with the Government's objectives, has enabled fiscal policy to effectively support monetary policy over the current cycle.

The UK's macro-economic policy framework continues to deliver unprecedented growth and stability. GDP in the UK has now expanded for 59 consecutive quarters, the longest unbroken expansion since quarterly National Accounts data began.

Over the past 10 years, the UK has enjoyed more stability in terms of GDP growth and inflation than in any decade since the war.

Employment

17. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on progress towards his aim to achieve full employment. [136462]

John Healey: The Government's measures to increase employment build on a platform of macro-economic stability and economic growth, and include continued investment in the new deal, investment in skills and training, welfare reform to help people move from inactivity to work, and the national minimum wage and tax credits to make work pay. Employment is at record levels, with over 2.5 million more people in work than in 1997, and the highest employment rate of the G7 economies.

21. **Mr. David:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps he has taken to achieve the goal of full employment; and if he will make a statement. [136466]

John Healey: The Government's measures to increase employment build on a platform of macro-economic stability and economic growth, and include continued investment in the new deal, investment in skills and training, welfare reform to help people move from inactivity to work, and the national minimum wage and tax credits to make work pay. Employment is at record levels, with over 2.5 million more people in work than in 1997, and the highest employment rate of the G7 economies.

Millennium Development Goals

20. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with international counterparts on resources for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. [136465]

Ed Balls: Recent OECD figures show that global ODA in 2006 was up by $20 billion, an increase of 25 per cent. in real terms since 2004. The UK is working hard with international partners to ensure that global ODA stays on track for our goal of providing an extra $50 billion by 2010, and to ensure an adequate proportion goes to basic services to help meet the MDGs.

Together with international partners, the Chancellor recently launched the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, which will quickly release $4 billion of development aid to support essential vaccination programmes. And in February the G7 endorsed a pilot Advanced Market Commitment, which will provide $1.5 billion to accelerate the development of a pneomococcus vaccine. To accelerate progress towards the Education MDGs, I co-convened a high level international conference, together with the World Bank and European Commission, to renew the political commitment needed to deliver more aid for education.

In February the G7 stated that they expect spending on Aid for Trade to increase to $4 billion.

But we must do more. The Chancellor will be raising the need for countries to deliver on their ODA commitments, in order to meet the MDGs, at the next G8 Finance Ministers in Potsdam.

New Deal

22. **Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the new deal on the economy; and if he will make a statement. [136467]

John Healey: Since 1998, the new deal has helped over 1.6 million people to find jobs, and contributed to a fall in the number of young people claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than six months from over 174,000 in April 1997 to 53,800 in February 2007. Independent research has shown the new deal for young people's positive impact on the economy, with estimated benefits to the economy of up to £500 million a year.

Parenting

23. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward a public service agreement on early intervention with parents and children. [136468]

Ed Balls: The performance management framework in the CSR07 period will include a focused set of public service agreements (PSAs) which, taken together, will articulate Government's highest-priority outcomes for the spending period and will typically span several departments.

PSAs will sit alongside a new, comprehensive set of strategic objectives for each department.

All public service agreements and each department's strategic objectives will be published together at the comprehensive spending review.

The Government are committed to delivering services for families which focus on prevention and early intervention, as set out in the "Every child matters" programme and most recently confirmed in the children and young people's policy review "Aiming high for children: supporting families" (March 2007), published jointly by the Treasury and DfES.

Budgets

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on *(a)* the expected impact of the 2007 Budget and *(b)* the combined impact of the 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 Budgets' measures on (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) families with children. [135811]

Mr. Timms: As a result of personal tax and benefit measures announced in Budget 2007, by April 2009 households will be, on average, £100 per year better off; households with children will be, on average £200 per year better off and households with children in the poorest fifth of the population will be, on average, £350 better off.

As a result of personal tax and benefit measures introduced since 1997, by April 2009, in real terms, households will be, on average, £1,150 a year better off, households with children will be, on average, £1,800 a year better off and households with children in the poorest fifth of the population will be, on average, £4,000 a year better off.

Budgets: Publications

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of producing the Budget summary leaflet was in each year since 1997; and how much was accounted for by *(a)* design and commissioning, *(b)* printing and *(c)* distribution. [136318]

John Healey: In Budget 2002, Ministers made a commitment that the Government inform households of all tax and spending decisions made in the Budget. HMT took the following steps to honour this commitment:

release of documents on the public website immediately after the Chancellor's speech; and

publication of the summary leaflet to organisations which serve as distributors of public information.

The following table shows the cost of producing the Budget summary leaflet in each year since 2003. Information in relation to the years prior to 2002-03 could only be provided at disproportionate cost due to a change in the Treasury's accounting system in that year.

	Printing	*Distribution*	£ *Total*
2007	60,000	65,000	125,000
2006	69,000	82,000	151,000
2005	51,000	86,000	136,000
2004	55,000	108,000	163,000
2003	77,000	136,000	214,000

Notes:
1. Please note that all figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand and hence may not add to total.
2. Figures include VAT where applied.

There were no external costs associated with design and commissioning of the summary leaflet as these were done internally.

Debts

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the average levels of household indebtedness in the UK in comparison to other European countries. [136458]

Ed Balls: I refer the Gentleman to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for North-West Hampshire (Sir George Young) on the Floor of the House earlier today.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to update the third outline National Changeover Plan, published in 2003. [136302]

Ed Balls: The third Outline National Changeover Plan (oNCP3) provides a comprehensive statement of how the Government would manage a euro changeover in the UK. This remains the basis for any future euro changeover and there are no plans to update the oNCP3 at this time.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of preparations for the possibility of joining the European single currency since 1997. [136303]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answer to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes) of 14 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 880W.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the members are of the Standing Committee on Euro Preparations; how many times the Committee met in each of the last five years; what the annual administration cost of the Committee was in each of those years; how many civil servants are seconded to the Committee on a *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time basis; and what the grade is of each of those civil servants. [136304]

Ed Balls: Details of the meetings of the Chancellor's Standing Committee on Euro Preparations, including attendance and minutes of the meetings, are available on the Treasury's euro website (www.euro.gov.uk). The members of the Committee are:

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Chair),

Economic Secretary to the Treasury,

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland,

Secretary of State for Wales,

Secretary of State for Scotland,

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry,

Chair of Cross Party Group on Euro Preparations,

Head of the Home Civil Service,

General Secretary of Trades Union Congress,

Vice-Chair of Local Government Association,

Chief Executive of National Council for Voluntary Organizations,

Chief Executive of Citizens Advice,

Chair of Yorkshire Forward (representing the RDAs),

Director General of the Confederation of British Industry,

Governor of Bank of England,

Chairman of Financial Services Authority,

President of British Bankers' Association,

President of British Chambers of Commerce,

Chairman of British Retail Consortium.

There are no civil servants seconded to the Committee on either a full or part time basis. Civil servants in the Treasury's Euro Preparations Unit provide support for Committee meetings as required. The costs of the Euro Preparations Unit are met from within departmental expenditure limits.

Environmental Transformation Fund

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he plans a public consultation on the Environmental Transformation Fund; [136277]

(2) from which Department's budget the Environmental Transformation Fund will be allocated; [136278]

(3) if he will make a statement on the remit of the Environmental Transformation Fund. [136279]

John Healey: As announced alongside the publication of the UK's National Allocation Plan for EU ETS Phase Two, a new Environmental Transformation Fund will be established to support renewable energy, biofuels and other non-nuclear, low-carbon technologies including carbon capture and storage. Details will be announced in the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Budget 2007 announced that in the 2007 CSR, the Government will create a new international window of the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) with £800 million of official development assistance (ODA)to support development and poverty reduction through environmental protection, and help developing countries respond to climate change. Budget 2007 also announced that the Secretary of State for International Development will allocate £50 million from the international window of the UK's Environmental Transformation Fund to support proposals that have been made by ten Congo forest countries to help them protect the Congo Basin's forests and people.

Financial Services: EC Action

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there are written protocols determining the respective roles of the Financial Services Authority and his Department when negotiating with the EU Commission on financial services matters. [136416]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* The Government welcome the recent NAO report into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Financial Services Authority has used its resources, when discharging its statutory functions. I told the high level group meeting on 30 April that the Government are proposing to publish an MoU setting out the respective roles and responsibilities of each organisation in this area.

Fiscal Rules

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of his fiscal rules on the economy. [136463]

John Healey: In the last decade, the introduction of strict fiscal rules and clear objectives for fiscal policy have put the public finances on a more sound and sustainable footing than in previous economic cycles.

This responsible management of public finances, in line with the Government's objectives, has enabled fiscal policy to effectively support monetary policy over the current cycle.

The UK's macro-economic policy framework continues to deliver unprecedented growth and stability. GDP in the UK has now expanded for 59 consecutive quarters, the longest unbroken expansion since quarterly National Accounts data began.

Over the past 10 years, the UK has enjoyed more stability in terms of GDP growth and inflation than in any decade since the war.

Gift Aid: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many voluntary groups were in receipt of Gift Aid in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. [135992]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not separately identify Gift Aid claims by types of organisations or by countries, regions or local authorities of the UK.

Amounts of tax repaid to charities in the UK on donations under Gift Aid are published in Table 10.1 on the HMRC website at: www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/menu.htm. In 2006-07 a total of £828 million was repaid to UK charities under Gift Aid.

Market in Financial Instruments Directive

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in determining the boundaries between the home state regulator and the host regulator of branches established under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive; and if he will make a statement. [136413]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* Discussions are still ongoing between the Commission and the relevant member state authorities about the boundary between home and host authority regulators for the regulation of branches.

Pension Funds

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will visit Essex to discuss the effect of changes made to dividend payments to pension funds. [136456]

Ed Balls: In Essex and across the country, as a result of the tough and necessary decisions taken by this Government since 1997, including on dividend tax credits, businesses and pension funds have benefited from a decade of stability, with low inflation, low interest rates and rising business investment.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total assets were of pension funds in the UK in each of the last five years. [136025]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane) on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1626W.

Tax Credits

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the take-up of working tax credit in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [136464]

Mr. Timms: The latest figures show that in 2004-05 82 per cent. of working tax credit entitlement has been claimed.

Taxation: Fuels

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax revenue was raised through the sale of petrol and diesel in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2006-07. [136226]

John Healey: The total amount of tax revenue on the sale of petrol and diesel is not available. The total excise duty raised on the quantities of these products released for consumption is published in Table 3 of the Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin. This can be found at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

HM Customs and Revenue do not collect data on the amount of VAT paid on individual goods and services.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of non-resident parents were *(a)* nil compliant and *(b)* partially compliant with their child support payments in each month since the Child Support Agency introduced its operational improvement plan. [129819]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 10 May 2007:

In reply to your parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of non-resident parents were *(a)* nil compliant and *(b)* partially compliant with their child support payments in each month since the Child Support Agency introduced its operational improvement plan.

The Agency introduced its Operational Improvement Plan in March 2006.

The information requested is provided in the attached table, in which nil and partially compliant cases are expressed as a proportion of all cases with an assessment or a calculation.

It should be noted that the proportion of cases in which maintenance was due that have a positive maintenance outcome has increased from 59% to 61% over the same period, resulting in an extra 33,000 children benefiting either from maintenance direct arrangements or from money received via the Agency's collection service

The volumes and proportions of nil and partially compliant cases relative to all cases with a positive liability, between March 2006 and December 2006, measured over the three month periods ending in the months shown

	Nil compliant		Partial compliant	
Quarter ending	Volume	Proportion (%)	Volume	Proportion (%)
March 2006	148,883	32	129,028	27
April 2006	147,126	31	136,193	29
May 2006	145,889	31	132,370	28
Jun e 2006	145,474	31	132,818	28
July 2006	148,175	30	136,895	29
August 2006	145,698	30	134,808	28
September 2006	150,168	31	136,928	28
October 2006	153,907	32	136,908	28
November 2006	158,453	32	136,192	28
December 2006	162,129	33	141,967	29
January 2007	165,162	33	136,505	27
February2007	166,567	33	139,047	28
March 2007	170,579	34	142,359	28

Notes:
1. A case is classified as nil compliant at the end of a three month period if it was open and classed as a collection service case at the end of the period, and within the period money was charged on the case but no money was collected via the collection service.
2. A case is classified as partially compliant at the end of a three month period if it was open and classed as a collection service case at the end of the period, and within the period money was charged on the case and some, but not all, of the money charged was collected via the collection service.
3. Compliance is calculated over three month periods ending in the months shown.
4. New scheme cases being processed clerically are excluded from the table.
5. Volumes are rounded to the nearest one hundred.

Personal Income

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the £10 band income distribution data used to produce the income distribution for the total population graphs in households below average income for each year of the Family Resources Survey; and if he will also provide the corresponding datasets for *(a)* children, *(b)* working age adults and *(c)* pensioner sub-groups. [131317]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The information requested is not available for 2005-06 as the Households Below Average Income 2005-06 release is currently being revised. The new release will be available from mid-May. The data requested will be placed in the Library after the new release is published.

The Secretary of State made a written statement to Parliament on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 20WS, on why the statistics are being revised.

Poverty: Children

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to engage parents, local authorities and private sector organisations in discussions on child poverty, as proposed in the Working for Children Report published by his Department. [131826]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In developing our employment programs and formulating our strategy for reducing child poverty, the Department for Work and Pensions has worked closely with a range of partners. As stated in the Working for Children report, it is important that we continue to do so. In addition to regular ministerial meetings with stakeholders, current and ongoing engagement takes places through: six-monthly meetings between officials and the largest of the child poverty stakeholder groups including, the Child Poverty Action Group, One Parent Families, Save the Children, Barnardo's and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation; the Child Poverty Accord, an agreement between The Local Government Association and Central Government Departments—DWP (and its Agencies), Department for Education and Skills, HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs—to work together to tackle child poverty. The Accord partners will continue to work with local authorities to develop anti-poverty strategies; the City Strategy which will play a significant role in increasing local employment rates, ensuring those most disadvantaged in the labour market can receive the help and guidance they need. It will bring together the public, private and voluntary sectors into a concerted local programme to improve the way support for individual jobless people is co-ordinated and delivered on the ground.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1158W, on social security benefit: fraud, how the Voice Risk Analysis software which his Department intends to test differs from a lie detector test. [135110]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Voice Risk Analysis software which the Department intends to test is a risk assessment process. It analyses micro physiological changes to a caller's voice and combines this analysis with a number of other techniques to provide an indication of the level of confidence that can be attached to answers to questions. It will not by itself be used to determine entitlement to benefit, but to identify which claims can be paid quickly or which may need further examination and supporting verification. The technique does not require the customer to be physically present. In contrast lie detectors require a

customer presence and rely on measuring a range of involuntary physiological factors such as heart rate, blood pressure and respiration.

Welfare to Work

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what funding has been made available to pilot the recommendations contained in the Freud report; [135114]

(2) what plans he has to introduce pilot schemes implementing the recommendations contained in the Freud report. [135115]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* The Government's response to the Freud Report will be published in the summer.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 14 May 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135711]

Mr. Straw: I am responsible for the website www.commonsleader.gov.uk. During 2006, the website received a total of 6,646,720 hits (an average of 553,893 hits per month), with the number of unique users in an average month being 45,037.

The total cost for the initial development and software amounted to £44,689 in 2003. The annual cost of hosting the website is £7,044. Extra costs may be incurred for development and maintenance on an ad hoc basis.

PRIME MINISTER

Iraq: Weapons

Mr. Baron: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his Oral Answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1505, on engagements, what the basis was of his claim on 24 September 2002 that, if he were able to purchase fissile material illegally, it would be only a year or two before Saddam Hussein acquired a usable nuclear weapon. [136508]

The Prime Minister: These matters have been examined during the course of the Butler Review and other inquiries, and covered during debates and statements on Iraq and in briefings by my Official Spokesman. All relevant information has been placed in the public domain in as far as that could be done without prejudicing national security.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Environment Protection

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the environmental impact of the Aviation White Paper's proposal on expanding Heathrow airport; and if he will make a statement. [136779]

Gillian Merron: We maintain a close working relationship with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), at both official and ministerial level, on the programme of work to review further development of Heathrow. Officials from DEFRA participated in the technical panel work on air quality which reported last July, and our respective officials have had a number of discussions since on the environmental issues.

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by his Department with outside suppliers over the last five years. [135683]

Gillian Merron: A table showing the five largest information technology contracts agreed by the Department over the last five years has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Top five IT contracts in the Department for Transport over the last five years

Date awarded/commencement date	*Title/Nature of work*	*Awarded by*	*Supplier*	*Original estimate (£ million)*	*Outturn cost (if complete) (£ million)*	*Most recent estimate (if ongoing) (£ million)*
12 September 2002	Partners Achieving Change Together[1]	DVLA	IBM	287.30	n/a	437.00
May 2002	Business Services and Operational Network Management	VOSA	Various[2]	346.60	n/a	430.80
20 December 2002	Transport Direct Website	DfT(c)	Atos Origin	14.90	n/a	34.60
1 January 2005	Provision of information services	Driving Standards Agency	Capita	22.00	n/a	22.00
22 May 2003	Supply of smart cards for digital tachograph equipment	DVLA	Security Printing and Systems Ltd	12.00	n/a	15.90

[1] Set up and transition costs have been excluded from the above figures.
[2] Overall cost of all ICT services due to issues of commercial confidentiality.

Notes
The original estimate excludes indexation.
The figures are provided on a resource basis (not cash basis).
Support for new systems has been added (subject to change control) which has added to this baseline. Indexation has also been added each year. This explains the difference between the original estimate and the outturn.

Driving: Diabetes

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department is undertaking the additional research recommended in the Road Safety Research Report Number 61, 'Stratifying Hypoglycaemic Event Risk in Insulin-treated Diabetes'. [136275]

Dr. Ladyman: No decision as yet has been made about commissioning further research.

The Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel on Diabetes and Driving is awaiting agreement from the European Commission's Committee on the Diabetes EC Working Group recommendations, before advising on whether changes can be made to the current medical standards for driving licences or further research is needed.

Driving: Licensing

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason EU driving licences cannot be upgraded in the UK; and whether there are plans to allow such upgrading in the future. [136246]

Dr. Ladyman: European legislation on driving licences does not allow for the member state of residence to amend a driving licence document issued by another member state to show additional driving entitlements.

DVLA must require the surrender of the original driving licence before a UK licence can be issued showing any new entitlements gained within the UK.

We are not aware of any plans to allow for the upgrade of licence documents in future amendments to European legislation.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of passengers travelling to and from Heathrow airport by *(a)* private motor vehicles, *(b)* taxis, *(c)* London Underground and *(d)* Heathrow Express in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [136780]

Gillian Merron: The estimated number of passengers using each mode of transport at Heathrow airport in each of the last five years is as follows:

Heathrow airport

million

Mode of transport	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Private Car	13.4	14.2	14.3	15.2	14.5
Hire Car	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Taxi/Minicab	10.0	10.3	10.1	11.2	11.4
Tube	4.9	5.3	5.6	6.1	5.8
Bus/Coach	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.4	6.0
Rail	3.2	3.5	3.6	4.0	4.2
(Of which: Heathrow Express)	(3.1)	(3.4)	(3.5)	(4.0)	(4.0)
Other	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
No answer	3.4	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3

Heathrow airport

million

Mode of transport	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Total terminating passengers (million)	41.1	39.6	40.1	43.6	43.6

Note:
These results are based on a departure survey only. The assumption, for weighting purposes, is that arriving and departing passengers share the same modal characteristics.

Source:
CAA Passenger Survey

Roads: Accidents

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal road traffic accidents were recorded in the West Mercia police authority area between 22 and 29 April 2005. [136814]

Dr. Ladyman: Between 22 and 29 April 2005, there were three fatal personal injury road accidents reported in the West Mercia police authority area.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Forests

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase the acreage of woodland and forests to increase the absorption of carbon dioxide. [136637]

Barry Gardiner: Growing trees have the capacity to sequester carbon and existing woodlands contain a significant carbon stock. Young, fast growing species sequester carbon fastest, but these are not necessarily the trees that bring the greatest public benefits for wildlife, amenity and access. Carbon dioxide absorption is, therefore, valued as an additional benefit to the principal environmental and social objectives of woodland creation supported by the Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS).

The incentives offered through EWGS over the next few years will be influenced by the outcome of the refreshed England Forestry Strategy, the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 and the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what global greenhouse gas stabilization target, expressed in carbon dioxide equivalent, the Government are using as a basis for their policies. [136557]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 10 May 2007]:* The UK Government's climate change policies are based on limiting global mean temperature rise to 2° C above pre-industrial levels. This mirrors the European Union's 2° C stabilisation target.

The Government agree with the European Commission that, to meet that objective, the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases has to remain well below 550 parts per million volume carbon dioxide equivalent. This will require global greenhouse gas emissions to fall by between 15 and 50 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2050, with reductions in developed countries of between 60 and 80 per cent. The UK's target of a 60 per cent. reduction in carbon dioxide emissions is consistent with this approach.

We will keep our emission reduction target under review and the draft climate change Bill includes a provision for it to be amended if required.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department is planning to contribute to the Heathrow expansion consultation by the Department for Transport; what discussions he has had with the Department for Transport on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [136778]

Ian Pearson: The Department for Transport has kept DEFRA in close touch on the programme of work to review further development of Heathrow airport. DEFRA participated in the technical panel work on air quality which reported last July, and discussions on other environmental issues have taken place between the two Departments.

Heating: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to tackle carbon dioxide emissions from outdoor space heaters. [136295]

Ian Pearson: Very limited information is available about the number of outdoor patio heaters in use in the UK. DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) has estimated that there are approximately 630,000 in use in the domestic sector and between 26,000 and 105,000 in the hospitality sector (pubs, restaurants and hotels).

Making reasonable assumptions about fuel, power rating, and level of usage, the MTP estimates annual energy consumption to be approximately 670 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in the domestic sector and between 280 and 1,100 GWh in the hospitality sector. The corresponding annual carbon dioxide emissions are 140,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the domestic sector and between 60,000 and 240,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the in the hospitality sector. Further information is available from the MTP's website at:

www.mtprog.com.

The Government are committed to raising product standards and encouraging people to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. However, as a member of the European single market, the Government cannot by itself introduce mandatory minimum standards for appliances on the basis of their energy efficiency as it would inhibit their free trade. In order to set such standards we need to persuade other member states that this is necessary across the EU. The Eco-Design for Energy Using Products (EUP) Framework Directive provides a streamlined and effective route for setting such requirements. The European Commission has currently identified a list of 20 priority products for action. At present, patio heaters are not on this list.

Lighting

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Department of Health on the implications for people with light sensitivity conditions of phasing out the sale of incandescent light bulbs. [133878]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The Department is aware of the need to consider health implications in the event of incandescent light bulbs being phased out. Departmental officials have already had discussions with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and other Government Departments that have an interest in these matters.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with colleagues in the Department of Trade and Industry on merging activities connected to the delivery of support for renewable energy and energy efficiency. [135864]

Ian Pearson: None.

Warm Front Scheme

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to extend funding available via the warm homes scheme to cover the installation of new and environmentally sustainable technologies; and if he will make a statement. [135813]

Ian Pearson: I assume the hon. Member is referring to the warm front scheme.

Technologies not currently offered by the warm front scheme are assessed to establish their suitability. Considerations include cost, energy efficiency and ease of use.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average excess payable by households receiving warm front grants is in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* Government office region. [136347]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: The information requested is not collected centrally and a response could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Water: Meters

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of metered

households in each local authority area in England which *(a)* are eligible for and *(b)* have been granted assistance in paying their water bills under the Vulnerable Groups Regulations. [136263]

Ian Pearson: The Water Industry (Charges) (Vulnerable Groups) Regulations 1999 apply for metered customers who meet certain criteria to protect them from paying large water bills.

Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales, collects data on the number of households receiving assistance under the Vulnerable Groups Regulations in the water companies' annual June returns. The latest figures on the number of households that have been granted assistance in paying their water bills are from 2005-06 and are reported by water company rather than local authority area, and are set out in the following table.

Number of households receiving assistance under vulnerable groups tariff, 2005-06

Water company	*Number of households*
Anglian	719
Dwr Cymru	426
Northumbrian (North East and Essex and Suffolk)	672
Severn Trent	1,223
South West	2,962
Southern	324
Thames	1,780
United Utilities	1,447
Wessex	622
Yorkshire	1,308
Bournemouth and W Hampshire	96
Bristol	391
Cambridge	97
Dee Valley	16
Folkestone and Dover	42
Mid Kent	103
Portsmouth	30
South East Water	114
South Staffordshire	139
Sutton and East Surrey	64
Tendring Hundred	328
Three Valleys	284
Total	13,187

Ofwat has not made an estimate of the number of metered households eligible under the vulnerable groups regulations.

Water: Shortages

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* dates and *(b)* durations of hose pipe bans in each water company area were in each year since 2000. [136554]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 10 May 2007]:* Water companies introduce hosepipe bans under their own powers in the Water Industry Act 1991. The following table shows when hosepipe bans were introduced and lifted, and the approximate duration of the bans. No hosepipe bans were imposed in the period 2000-04.

Water company/supply zone	*Hosepipe ban introduced*	*Hosepipe ban removed*	*Duration of restrictions (months approx.)*
Sutton and East Surrey			
Company wide	[1]	18 January 2007	21
Southern Water			
Sussex North	10 June 2005	18 January 2007	19
Sussex Coast	11 July 2005	18 January 2007	18
Hastings, Thanet, Medway	30 July 2005	18 January 2007	17.5
Isle of Wight	24 March 2006	18 January 2007	10
SE Water			
Sussex and Kent	30 July 2005	6 February 2007	18
Northern zone	1 April 2006	6 February 2007	10
Cholderton and District			
Company wide	1 July 2005	18 December 2006	17.5
Mid Kent			
Company wide	8 August 2005	28 February 2007	19
Thames Water			
Company wide	3 April 2006	18 January 2007	9.5
Three Valleys Water			
Company wide	3 April 2006	18 January 2007	9.5

[1] Unattended hosepipe (e.g. sprinkler) ban from 22 April 2005, full ban from 1 March 2006

Water: South East Region

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the status is of the proposed new and extended reservoir developments in *(a)* Broad Oak, Kent, *(b)* Clay Hill, East Sussex, *(c)* Havant Thicket, Hampshire, *(d)* Upper Thames, Oxon, *(e)* Bewl Enlargement, Kent, *(f)* Bray Enlargement, Berkshire and *(g)* Abberton, Essex. [136011]

Ian Pearson: These proposed reservoir developments were set out in water companies' 25 year water resources plans prepared in 2004 for the periodic review of water prices. Companies envisaged they would be developed in the period up to 2020. It is the responsibility of the companies concerned to apply for the necessary planning, abstraction, impounding and other consents required.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Broadband

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many and what proportion of homes had access to broadband in each year since 2000; what *(a)* estimates of and *(b)* targets for broadband access his Department has made for future years; and if he will make a statement. [135517]

Margaret Hodge: Since 2000 the number of homes which have access to broadband in each year is as follows: 2000 (30 per cent.), 2001 (49 per cent.), 2002 (63 per cent.), 2003 (85 per cent.), 2004 (93.3 per cent.), 2005 (99.6 per cent.) and 2006 (99.8 per cent.).

The Department has not *(a)* estimated or *(b)* set any targets for future broadband access. The Telecomms Adjudicator has responsibility for setting future targets for broadband access. Their target of 98 per cent. for 2006 was met and surpassed in December 2005. Further information can be found on their website

http://www.offta.org.uk/charts.htm.

Carbon Sequestration: Renewables Obligation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reasons clean electricity generated using carbon capture and storage technology is not included in the renewables obligation. [135580]

Malcolm Wicks: The Renewables Obligation is the Government's key mechanism for encouraging the generation of electricity from renewable sources. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology is used to store the carbon emissions produced during the generation of electricity by fossil fuel generating stations. This technology is therefore not eligible under the RO as it does not involve the production of electricity from renewable sources. However, the Government are supportive of it and announced in the 2007 Budget that the UK would run a competition for full scale demonstration of CCS. We are also pressing for CCS to be recognised in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which Ministers in his Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135548]

Mr. McCartney: This Government publish an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State visited India once in the last 12 months on 14-17 January 2006; his visit lasted for four days.

I as the Minister for Trade visited India once in the last 12 months on 23-27 and 29-30 November 2006; my visit lasted for six days.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* former miners and *(b)* former miners' families in Copeland have received compensation payments from the Miners' Compensation Scheme. [135814]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of former miners and former miners' families in Copeland who have received compensation payments for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Vibration White Finger (VWF) are shown in the following table:

	COPD	*VWF*
Number of claimants who have received a damages payment	1,721	271
Miners	777	235
Families	944	36

These include some claimants who have received an interim payment but the claim is not yet settled.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether there are any outstanding compensation claims for *(a)* former miners' and *(b)* former miners' families that are yet to be resolved in Copeland. [135815]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of outstanding claims for former miners and former miners' families in Copeland for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and for Vibration White finger (VWF) yet to be resolved are shown in the following table:

	COPD	*VWF*
Number of outstanding claims	595	42
Miners	135	36
Families	460	6

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he plans to recover the fees paid from the public purse to solicitors acting for former miners and their families where there is evidence of double charging. [135816]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has a contractual agreement to pay legal costs for claimants under the coal health compensation schemes. The costs and disbursements paid to solicitors are set out in the Claim Handling Agreement (CHA) under an agreed set of tariffs.

The Department has made considerable efforts to secure repayment of fees taken in addition to those paid under the CHA and to make claimants aware of their options if they have been charged a fee. Ultimately, this is a matter for the Regulation and Legal Complaints Boards of the Law Society with whom we continue to work to seek redress. The Department's Compensation for Miners newsletter features advice on this issue and the Legal Complaints Service continues to advertise, receive and investigate complaints.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of claims for compensation for miners and former miners suffering from arthritis. [135900]

Malcolm Wicks: 15,041 rheumatic disease claims have been registered by the Department since 1998.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the percentage of compensation payments made in Copeland to former miners and their families that were subject to double charging. [135927]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is unable to identify where "double charging" has occurred. These are essentially matters about conduct within the legal profession and the Department has no direct role, although we continue to raise awareness of the issue in conjunction with the Legal Complaints Service and others in order that proper redress can be achieved.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what average period of time was taken to resolve a compensation claim from former miners or their families in Copeland. [135928]

Malcolm Wicks: The average period of time taken in days to resolve a compensation claim from former miners or their families in Copeland for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Vibration White Finger (VWF) are shown in the following table:

Average time taken in days from date of claim to date of settlement

	Days
COPD	959
VWF	1,322

The figures include claims settled by payment, denial, those withdrawn by solicitors and those that have been subject to strike out. Many claimants will have payments before settlement.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many compensation claims from former miners and their families in Copeland were for chronic lung diseases such as emphysema and pneumoconiosis. [135929]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of compensation claims received from former miners and their families in Copeland for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease is 2,490.

Some claims that are awarded compensation may include payment for Pneumoconiosis and this depends on certain criteria being met. However, claims made just for Pneumoconiosis do not fall within the British Coal Respiratory Disease Litigation, and are dealt with by Common Law.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he plans to take to reduce the *(a)* length and *(b)* cost of the legal process for miners claiming compensation for knee problems developed in the mines; and if he will make a statement. [136743]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is fully committed to ensuring the legal process for potential compensation claims progresses quickly and will be complying with directions provided by Leeds county court on 30 April 2007. The Department will seek to ensure that unnecessary costs are not incurred so far as is it able to do so.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what factors he considered when deciding not to meet the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers recently to discuss a compensation scheme for miners with knee problems caused by their work in mines; and if he will make a statement. [136744]

Malcolm Wicks: I received a request from the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers for a meeting in February 2006, when a group litigation order had only just been applied for. No evidence of liability had been produced and therefore a meeting at that point would have been premature.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what consideration he has given to providing a scheme for miners with knee problems caused by their work in mines; and if he will make a statement. [136745]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are unable to establish a compensation scheme for knee injuries without liability for those injuries being established against it. To date, such liability has not been established.

ITV: British Sky Broadcasting

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received from ITN and Channel 4 News on the proposed acquisition of 17.9 per cent. of ITV by BSkyB. [137120]

Mr. McCartney: No representations have been received from ITN or Channel 4 News about this matter. However, both ITV, which has a 40 per cent. shareholding in ITN, and Channel 4 have submitted representations to Ofcom in the context of its initial investigation into whether this transaction raises public interest issues and to the Office of Fair Trading in the context of its initial investigation into whether this transaction raises competition issues. Those submissions are summarised in the reports the Secretary of State received from the Office of Fair Trading and Ofcom on 27 April 2007. Previously, both ITV and Channel 4 had submitted views to the Office of Fair Trading about the transaction and these submissions were forwarded to the DTI to assist the Secretary of State in reaching a decision on whether to issue an intervention notice. Separately, at DTI's invitation, ITV had submitted views direct to the DTI on the question of whether to issue an intervention notice.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has received the OFT report into the proposed acquisition of 17.9 per cent. of ITV by BSkyB; and what the timetable is for the publication of the report's findings. [137121]

Mr. McCartney: The Office of Fair Trading's report on this transaction was received on 27 April 2007. The report will be published no later than when a decision is announced on whether the Secretary of State will refer the transaction to the Competition Commission for a full investigation. The statutory deadline for taking this decision is 26 May although there is scope to extend the deadline in certain circumstances.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has received the Ofcom report into the proposed acquisition of 17.9 per cent. of ITV by BSkyB; and what the timetable is for the publication of the report's findings. [137122]

Mr. McCartney: Ofcom's report on this transaction was received on 27 April 2007. The report will be published no later than when a decision is announced on whether the Secretary of State will refer the transaction to the Competition Commission for a full investigation. The statutory deadline for taking this decision is 26 May although there is scope to extend the deadline in certain circumstances.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire (Peter Luff) of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1072W, on the low carbon buildings programme, how many of the 4,550 households allocated grants under the programme have been checked to ensure they comply with the terms of the scheme. [135687]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the terms of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, the programme manager carries out inspections on a percentage of commissioned installations. The first 50 of these inspections is due to take place in Quarter three of this year. Installation inspections will also be carried out as part of the certification scheme that supports the programme.

Mining: Compensation

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will establish an inquiry into the operation of the Miners' Compensation Scheme. [136142]

Malcolm Wicks: No. An independent review of the schemes was conducted in 2005. The report is available at the DTI website:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/coal-health/publications/external-review/page16634.html

The National Audit Office is also carrying out a value for money review of the Department's administration of the Coal Health Compensation Schemes. The report is anticipated during the summer.

North Sea Oil

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much revenue was generated by the UK's North Sea oil and gas fields in each year since 1997. [136810]

Malcolm Wicks: Total revenue from UK Continental Shelf oil and gas production in each year since 1997 is given in the following table:

	Income (£ billion)
1997	17.6
1998	14.8
1999	17.5
2000	25.5
2001	24.2
2002	24.1
2003	23.6
2004	23.4
2005	28.7

Source:
http://www.og.dti.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/appendices/UKCS_I_and_E_Annual.pdf; data for 2006 are still being compiled.

Nuclear Fuels: Storage

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the International Atomic Energy Agency proposal for an international nuclear fuel bank; and if he will make a statement. [135605]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The International Atomic Energy Agency has not proposed the creation of an international nuclear fuel bank. It has, however, asked Governments and interested organisations to share ideas about how the risks of the proliferation of sensitive nuclear technologies through the international development of nuclear energy could be prevented. The UK "Enrichment Bond", which has been placed in the Library of the House, is currently being considered by the IAEA, with a number of other proposals. The IAEA is due to bring out a paper in June, taking into account the various suggestions already made, which Ministers will have an opportunity to see.

OM Energy

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1361W, on OM Energy, what his definition is of academic validation of the technology; and who validated the technology. [136726]

Mr. McCartney: By academic validation, I mean that appropriately qualified experts have judged that the technology works. The experts were Dr. Juan Matthews PhD, FInstP (DTI International Technology Promoter), Dr. Fulcieri Maltini, former World Bank scientist and fuel cell expert who conducted the on-site inspection, and Professor Derek Fray, B.Sc.(Eng.), Ph.D., D.I.C., M.A., A.R.S.M., C.Eng., M.I.M., F.I.M.M., F.Eng., Head of Cambridge University Department of Materials Chemistry, who met the scientists involved.

Overseas Companies: Sudan

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what guidelines his Department provides to British companies active within Sudan. [135257]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 1 May 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave her on 8 May 2007; *Official Report*, column 117W, to the same question asked of my hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how his Department is implementing the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003; what powers the Information Commissioner has under these regulations; and if he will make a statement. [135748]

Margaret Hodge: The Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations came into force in December 2003. Under the regulations no one may make an unsolicited marketing telephone call to a consumer who has previously notified the caller that they do not wish to receive such calls or who has been registered with the telephone preference scheme for at least 28 days.

The Information Commissioner has responsibility for enforcement of the regulations by the following mechanisms:

- Informal resolution;
- Preliminary Enforcement Notice;
- Enforcement Notice and;
- Prosecution for a Breach of Notice.

The powers of the Information Commissioner in the Regulations are drawn from the Data Protection Act 1998 which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

The Enterprise Act 2002 was updated by the Enterprise Act 2002 (Part 8 Community Infringements Specified UK Laws) (Amendment) Order 2005, which designated enforcement powers to the Information Commissioner to enable him to apply to the courts to stop traders infringing a range of domestic consumer protection legislation where the infringements harm the collective interests of consumers, including these regulations.

In December 2006 the Information Commissioner's Office served Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations enforcement notices on six organisations. A further seven cases, under the Enterprise Act, are currently under investigation, but are not yet complete. All these cases relate to unsolicited marketing telephone calls made to consumers.

Research: Breast Cancer

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much his Department spent on research into the causes of breast cancer through the Research Councils in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [136678]

Malcolm Wicks: Research Councils spend on research relating to breast cancer is listed in the following table.

		£ million
Research Council	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
BBSRC	0.48	0.53
MRC	5.3	5.9

Science: Finance

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what financial support his Department gives to *(a)* science centres and *(b)* other projects which (i) promote engagement in science to the general public and (ii) are involved in adding value to the teaching of those subjects in schools. [136251]

Malcolm Wicks: Promoting engagement with science and enhancing the science learning experience in schools are key objectives behind the commitments set out in the Government's science strategy document "The Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004 to 2014 Next Steps", and are supported by the Department and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

(a) The Department provided £1 million, as part of a £2 million joint DfES/DTI funding package, to science centres in 2004 to 2006 to help alleviate short term funding problems. Between November 2006 and March 2008, we are providing £500,000 to Ecsite UK, the science centre umbrella body, to fund a £750,000 project to help science centres become financially viable. Specifically, this project aims to enable the science centres to:

- demonstrate the impact and the added-value they deliver;
- work more effectively together, and collaboratively with museums, SETNET, Science Learning Centres and Science Cities; and,
- maximise their future financial viability.

In addition, £33,000 was provided to Ecsite UK in 2006-07.

(b) OSI works closely with DfES to promote the teaching of science in schools, and drive forward the recommendations set out in the 2006 STEM programme report. OSI has also continued to fund a number of related projects and activities to develop effective public engagement in science and technology through a number of key mechanisms:

Promoting public engagement in science

Over £1.5 million has already been committed to the Sciencewise programme. More than 10 projects on a range of critical science challenges, including brain science, stem cells research, and nanotechnology have been supported. Sciencehorizons is the first ever mass public engagement programme designed to get the nation talking about how science and technology could affect our lives in the next 15 to 20 years. OSI is also undertaking work to develop an Expert Resource Centre for Public Dialogue on Science and Innovation (ERC), for launch in April 2008.

£280,000 in 2006-07 was given to the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BA) for organisation of National Science and Engineering Week (held in March this year). A grant of £100,000 enabled over 300 'hard-to-reach' schools to participate, many for the first time. £200,000 was also provided for the 2006 BA Festival of Science.

We are also actively encouraging other organisations to develop and fund their own activities in this area, and we particularly welcome the recent announcement of the four-year Beacons for Public Engagement pilot programme, funded by Research Councils UK, the higher education funding councils and the Wellcome Trust. The national academies (British Academy, The Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society) receive part of their funding as grant-in-aid from my Department. They too play a role in enhancing public engagement with science, technology and engineering issues, and have an interest in improving the teaching of these subjects in schools.

Adding Value to Science Teaching

As part of a £6.7 million programme funded by DTI, the Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths Network (SETNET) runs the science engineering ambassadors (SEAs) scheme, in which young scientists act as role models for school students. There are now more than 13,000 ambassadors representing a variety of industries stimulating scientific interest among school children which aims to have 18,000 SEAs in place by March 2008.

Funding for the BA also goes to support their CREST award scheme, which offers young people the opportunity to take part directly in scientific research and engineering projects. In 2006-07 this funding amounted to £220,000.

Science: Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding and support the Government have provided to Newcastle-upon-Tyne as a science city. [135637]

Margaret Hodge: The Government, through the Regional Development Agency One NorthEast, have to date contributed £10,733,333 in respect of the Newcastle science city site. This is inclusive of acquisition, stamp duty, fees and demolition.

One NorthEast has also contributed £2,427,000 to the programme management for Newcastle science city.

Weights and Measures: EC Law

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the permissibility of supplementary indications relating to weights and measures. [136937]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have consistently supported the continued availability of supplementary indications. In March this year, in responding to the European Commission's consultation on possible updating of the Units of Measurement Directive, the Government proposed that the current permission should now be extended without a further time limit.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Drugs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he last visited Afghanistan to review progress in the eradication of poppy fields. [136436]

Hilary Benn: I last visited Afghanistan in June 2006 to review progress on the DFID programme in Afghanistan. During this visit I took time to visit Helmand, the remote province in southern Afghanistan that produces much of Afghanistan's opium.

Ministers continue to receive regular updates on the progress of Her Majesty's Government's operation in Afghanistan from officials based in Kabul and Helmand. Just two weeks ago, DFID's permanent secretary participated in a joint visit with the permanent secretaries of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence, where they reviewed progress on a range of issues, including the UK's contribution to the counter-narcotics effort in Afghanistan.

The UK has committed £270 million from 2006-09 in support of the Government of Afghanistan's national drug control strategy, which represents the best means of tackling the problem. The policy of the Afghanistan Government is to target eradication in areas where alternative livelihoods already exist. This is an approach which we strongly support.

Departments: Consultants

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's spending was on research and consultancy services in 2006-07, broken down by programme. [133495]

Mr. Thomas: In total, DFID spent £179 million on bilateral knowledge and research programmes in 2005-06. This represented 4.1 per cent. of total DFID expenditure. A summary breakdown was published in Statistics on International Development 2001/02-2005/06 and the figures are reproduced in the following table.

DFID Programme: Bilateral Technical Co-operation: Knowledge and Research, 2005-06

Sector	*£000*
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	27,143
Engineering	35,730
Health	44,915
Economic and Social	48,959
Education	7,638
Other	15,043
Total Knowledge and Research	179,428

In total, DFID spent £252 million on consultancy in 2005-06. This represented 5.7 per cent. of total DFID expenditure. A summary breakdown is shown in the following table. The majority is consultancy to deliver parts of our development programme (as published in Statistics for International Development), where the services are usually provided to third parties such as recipient governments. These are funded through programme costs. The rest is consultancy to DFID as an organisation and is funded from its administrative budget. The table excludes low value contracts issued by DFID Departments and overseas offices of which there are no consolidated records held centrally.

DFID consultancy spend, 2005-06

	£000
Total consultancy funded through development programmes	225,248
Of which	
Africa Division	98,336
Asia and Pacific Division	56,830
Europe, Middle East and Americas Division	54,524
Policy Division	15,556
Consultancy for services to DFID	26,426
Total consultancy	251,673

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136099]

Mr. Thomas: As part of DFID's commitment to the sustainable operations on the Government Estate targets, all staff are encouraged to switch off IT equipment through regular intranet notices, poster campaigns and stickers on the equipment. Security staff also complete regular energy checks to ensure no IT equipment has been left on. DFID only buys computers and monitors which conform to the Quick Wins product standards for energy efficiency. DFID does not use software tools to shut down equipment automatically.

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by his Department with outside suppliers over the last five years. [135685]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has let four major IT contracts in the last five years.

The human resource (HR) system had a projected supplier cost at tender of £1.18 million. The total supplier cost at outturn was £1.22 million.

The HR system project was superseded by an HR transformation project which aims to radically change the way HR services are delivered and improve people management. The HR transformation project had an original budget of £6.5 million. It is primarily a business change project but it includes enhancements to the existing HR system and a number of smaller IT enabled components. The most recent cost estimate is £5.9 million, but options may be taken up in the future at additional cost.

The Quest Electronic Document and Record Management system had a projected supplier base cost at tender of £8.98 million. The current projected total supplier cost is £11.68 million. This includes a number of additional cost options available under the original contract.

The Aries Finance, Procurement and Reporting System, had a projected base supplier cost at tender of £11 million. The most recent estimate of £13.5 million reflects an agreed change to the scope of the project. It also includes additional consultancy support for change management and development of end-user training materials. Further options including assistance with training and roll out may be taken up in the future.

DFID has also let a number of small IT related contracts. However, our central records do not distinguish IT contracts, so provision of details for these contracts would incur disproportionate costs.

Developing Countries: Death

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the proportion of mortality in developing countries caused by *(a)* malaria, *(b)* tuberculosis, *(c)* road accidents and *(d)* HIV/AIDS in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [135704]

Mr. Thomas: The most recent estimates of the proportion of mortality in developing countries by cause are provided by the Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP) 2006 publication "Global Burden of Disease and Risk Factors", and the March 2006 World Health Organisation (WHO) Bulletin. These publications also explain the difficulties involved in measuring and estimating causes of mortality, for example for countries where up-to-date data and information may be lacking. Such estimates can therefore not be accurately provided on a year-on-year basis.

The DCPP publication reports that in 2001, the latest year for which estimates are provided, HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and road traffic accidents accounted for 5.3 per cent., 3.3 per cent., 2.5 per cent. and 2.2 per cent. respectively, of all deaths in low and middle income countries. As these countries develop, the proportion of mortality attributable to non-communicable disease causes—including road traffic accidents—is expected to rise.

North Korea

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what activities his Department undertakes in North Korea. [137388]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not have, and has never had, a bilateral programme in North Korea. We contribute as normal to the current EU programme of humanitarian assistance. Since 1995, around €118 million has been allocated to assist the most vulnerable people. Humanitarian assistance was provided to cover the immediate needs of flood-affected populations, to address food/nutritional problems, improve access to water as well as health care.

Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's total spending on technical assistance for all-country programmes was paid in consultancy fees to individuals, firms or companies based outside the recipient country in the last period for which figures are available. [133504]

Mr. Thomas: Information on the proportion of DFID expenditure on technical assistance for country programmes which was paid in consultancy fees to individuals, firms or companies based outside the recipient country is not available directly from central systems. Collation of this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Tamils

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received from Tamil community groups in the UK. [135965]

Mr. Thomas: In my capacity as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development I met with my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) and 20 representatives from the Tamil community in July 2006. Issues discussed included Tsunami relief, the peace process and DFID's programme of assistance.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Compensation: Applications

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many compensation applications were *(a)* rejected and *(b)* accepted by the Compensation Agency in each of the last six years; and how much was paid out by the Agency in compensation over the same period broken down by type. [136042]

Maria Eagle: This is the operational responsibility of the Compensation Agency. The chief executive has advised me of the following:

Criminal Damage (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977

	Accepted	Rejected	Amount (£)
2001-02	860	1,228	21,531,204
2002-03	854	984	10,542,281
2003-04	638	916	7,869,361
2004-05	417	654	6,172,714
2005-06	402	572	5,267,180
2006-07	631	667	5,709,917

Criminal Injuries (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988

	Accepted	Rejected	Amount (£)
2001-02	7,687	4,877	43,275,687
2002-03	7,527	4,624	43,888,946
2003-04	6,195	4,687	39,901,101
2004-05	3,034	1,811	28,824,198
2005-06	1,640	935	19,481,233
2006-07	753	415	11,950,313

Criminal Injuries (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

	Accepted	Rejected	Amount (£)
2001-02	—	—	—
2002-03	4	439	75,000
2003-04	782	4,361	2,967,518
2004-05	2,177	7,623	7,879,701
2005-06	3,218	8,057	14,247,747
2006-07	2,497	5,623	13,788,603

Terrorism Act 2000

	Accepted	Rejected	Amount (£)
2001-02	3,303	334	1,892,009
2002-03	7,371	543	2,400,603
2003-04	3,675	1,332	1,055,052
2004-05	381	600	227,264
2005-06	125	103	125,387

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136100]

Paul Goggins: Northern Ireland Office staff are requested to minimise energy waste by turning of their computers and monitors at the end of each working day. There are no technical procedures in place to shut down computers at night.

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by his Department with outside suppliers over the last five years. [135686]

Paul Goggins: The following tables cover the NIO Core Department, agencies, the legal offices (Public Prosecution Service and Crown Solicitors Office) and the Bloody Sunday Inquiry (BSI). It does not cover the Northern Ireland Departments, the police or other independent bodies.

£ million

Project	Purpose	Originally estimated (£ ex. VAT)	Most recently estimated (£ ex. VAT)	Outturn cost
Prism	To provide a prisoner record system for the Northern Ireland Prison Service	6.15	8.111	[1]3.5
Causeway (PPP project to 2013)	A joint enterprise by criminal justice organisations in Northern Ireland to share information electronically	45	[2]59	[1]27
Flax	Replace NIO IT infrastructure, provide internet and intranet and meet electronic document and records management targets	8.5	8.5	[3]8.5
Wide area network	Managed Service contract to provide ICT connections to all NIO sites	2	2.2	[1]1

[1] ongoing
[2] Causeway—The increased estimated costs in relation to the Causeway Programme resulted primarily from delays in implementation due to resourcing difficulties within the Criminal Justice Organisations and the additional complexity of amending these systems. A revised Programme Plan and updated Business case was approved by the NIO in January 2007 to reflect the impact of maintaining programme support, development and implementation resources for a longer period than anticipated.
[3] complete

Bloody Sunday Inquiry

	Project	Purpose	Total outturn cost (£)
2002	Bloody Sunday Inquiry—Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the inquiry	7.1 million
2003	Bloody Sunday Inquiry—Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the inquiry	5 million
2004	Bloody Sunday Inquiry—Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the inquiry	2.6 million
2005	Bloody Sunday Inquiry—Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the inquiry	3.7 million
2006	Bloody Sunday Inquiry—Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the inquiry	836,000

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128760]

Mr. Hain: Ministers and civil servants meet many people, including union representatives as part of the process of policy development and advice. To provide specific details of such meetings would require a manual trawl of ministerial diaries and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers were assigned to the force's Drug Squad in each of the last three years, broken down by grade; and what financial resources were allocated to tackling illegal drugs in Northern Ireland over the same period. [130918]

Paul Goggins: The operational deployment of officers is a matter for the Chief Constable. To provide information on the number of officers deployed could have adverse security or operational implications.

In addition to general police resources, the financial resources allocated to tackling illegal drugs in each of the last three years is shown in the following table.

Financial year	Budget (£ million)
2004-05	2.3
2005-06	2.3
2006-07	2.3

Drugs: Prisons

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were caught smuggling drugs into each prison establishment in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and what penalty was imposed in each case in which all legal proceedings are complete. [136043]

Paul Goggins: In 2004, there were 46 occasions when people were caught smuggling drugs into a prison establishment. 25 resulted in the visitor being banned for a period from visiting the establishment and 21 resulted in the imposition of 'closed' visits conditions. In 2005 there were 24 such occasions. 12 resulted in a ban and 12 in 'closed' visits conditions.

The figures for 2006 were 27, 15 and 12 respectively.

All these cases were reported to the PSNI. The Prison Service does not hold full information on the subsequent outcome.

Northern Ireland Executive: Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the Government's policy is on the use of *(a)* the Ulster flag, *(b)* the Cross of St. Patrick, *(c)* the Union flag, *(d)* the European

Union flag and *(e)* the Irish Republic flag on government buildings in Northern Ireland. [135938]

Mr. Hain: The Flags Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 regulates the flying of the Union flag from Government buildings on specified days in Northern Ireland. It also permits the European flag to be flown, in conjunction with the Union Flag, on Europe Day at Government buildings that have more than one flagpole.

Under the Regulations the flag of the Republic of Ireland could be flown, alongside the Union flag, from a Government building on the occasion of a visit of the Head of State of the Republic of Ireland to that building, provided that the building had more than one flag pole and that the Union flag was flown in prominence.

The Ulster flag and the Cross of St. Patrick have no official status and under the Flags Regulations are not permitted to be flown from Government Buildings.

Prison Visitors

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was allocated to the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme in each of the last six years; and how many prison visits were funded by this scheme over the same period. [136052]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Assisted prison visits scheme

Financial year	*Funding allocated (£)*	*Actual expenditure (£)*	*Visits (NI)*	*Visits (GB)*	*Total visits*
2001-02	90,000	44,516.63	674	93	767
2002-03	90,000	57,746.10	681	180	861
2003-04	70,000	52,054.78	563	100	663
2004-05	70,000	64,571.99	516	190	706
2005-06	80,000	63,234.49	606	84	690
2006-07	80,000	[1]40,474.00	[2]363	[2]57	420

[1] Estimated.
[2] April to December 2006.

Prisons: Education

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of prisoners in each Northern Ireland prison establishment achieved *(a)* GCSE, *(b)* post-GCSE and *(c)* third level qualifications in each of the last six years; and what steps he is taking to increase the number of prisoners achieving such qualifications. [136056]

Paul Goggins: Only those prisoners with a sufficiently long sentence and the ability to work at this level will be able to complete second and third level education. This represents a very small proportion of prisoners who enter the prison system on an annual basis. It is likely to exclude those on remand, those committed for fine default and those sentenced for less than one year. Almost 70 per cent. of those sentenced to custody have literacy and numeracy deficits in essential and key skills. Given the link between low attainment and criminal behaviour, the priority for the Prison Service is to address first-level educational and vocational needs. The second and third level awards attained within the past six years are as follows:

	Number
Maghaberry	
(a) and *(b)* GCSE and post GCSE awards and equivalents	50
(c) Third level qualifications 2001-06:	
OU Unit Awards completed	69
Degrees/Masters completed	7
Hydebank	
(a) and *(b)* GCSE and post GCSE awards and equivalents	16
(c) Third level qualifications 2001-06:	
OU Unit Awards completed	2
Degrees/Masters completed	0
Magilligan	
(a) and *(b)* GCSE and post GCSE awards and equivalents:	215
(c) Third level qualifications 2001-06:	
OU Unit Awards completed	27
Degrees/Masters completed	0

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many drug-related seizures have been made by British forces in Afghanistan; and what weight of narcotics has been seized, broken down by type. [133398]

Mr. Ingram: I have been asked to reply.

The Afghan authorities have the lead for counter-narcotic activity, but under the terms of the current NATO Operational Plan (OPLAN), ISAF forces may support them, including through support to interdiction operations. Over the 12 months to March 2007, Afghan forces interdicted 72 tonnes of opium.

Under the OPLAN, ISAF forces hand over any drugs, associated equipment, and traffickers to the Afghan authorities at the earliest possible opportunity.

In the absence of any ISAF requirement to record details of narcotic seizures, UK forces have to date not retained a central record of drug seizures, and any attempt to provide one would come at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government policy is on opium crop eradication activities in Afghanistan in areas where alternative livelihoods projects *(a)* are and *(b)* are not in place, and if she will make a statement. [134009]

Margaret Beckett: The UK supports the Afghan Government's policy on opium poppy eradication as set out in its National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS). The NDCS states that eradication should be Afghan-led and targeted where there is access to legal rural livelihoods. To ensure that eradication is targeted properly, the UK has helped the Afghan authorities to map those areas where people have access to legal rural livelihoods. These target areas are determined by a set of criteria that take into account a wide range of factors. In addition to rural livelihoods projects, the criteria include: distance to markets, water availability, agricultural diversity, population density, extension of government, access to non-farm income and credit. Non-targeted eradication is less likely to achieve the NDCS's objective of achieving a sustainable reduction in cultivation.

Africa: EC External Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on plans to hold an African Union-EU Summit in 2007. [134326]

Margaret Beckett: The second EU-Africa Summit is scheduled to take place in Lisbon in December. The UK wants a successful summit that will inject new momentum into the EU-Africa relationship. The summit must have a high level of ambition and strong African buy-in.

The summit presents an opportunity for constructive discussions on development, governance, conflict and climate security.

Early preparation of the summit is vital. Work is underway on a new joint EU-Africa strategy to be adopted at the summit and reasonable progress is being made towards a framework of commitments. The EU will continue to deliver on the commitments from the EU's 2005 strategy on Africa as agreed at the December 2006 European Council. Member states and the Commission are due to report on progress at the end of 2007.

Bangladesh: Political Prisoners

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on recent events in Bangladesh, with particular reference to *(a)* the suspension of political activity and *(b)* decisions to exile and arrest major party leaders. [135956]

Dr. Howells: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in a statement following her meeting on 19 April with the Bangladesh Foreign Adviser, Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury,

> "we want the Caretaker Government to succeed and to set Bangladesh on a course that will see it fulfil its considerable potential".

The full text of my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

> http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1176967923214%20&year=2007&month=2007-04-01&date=2007-04-19.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the position of Sheikh Hasina with Dr. Iftekhar Chowdhury on 19 April. The Caretaker Government has since lifted the restrictions on Sheikh Hasina's return to Bangladesh. We understand that the Caretaker Government is also currently considering lifting the ban on indoor political activity in the country.

Council of Europe: Finance

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was allocated to the Council of Europe in financial year 2005-06. [136954]

Mr. Hoon: The Council of Europe financial year runs from January to December. In 2006 the total budget of the Council of Europe was €262,659,600.00, of which the United Kingdom contributed €30,069,679.76. In 2005 the total budget of the Council of Europe was €270,797,597, of which the United Kingdom contributed €29,202,709.88.

European Constitution Treaty

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the Government's position that the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe would have altered the fundamental relationship between the European Union and the member states; and if she will make a statement. [134225]

Margaret Beckett: All EU treaties affect the relationship between member states and the EU. The Government's position is that, in view of the results of the French and Dutch referendums, the best way forward now is the traditional approach of an amending treaty rather than the constitutional treaty.

Iran: Assets

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the value of Iranian funds *(a)* identified and *(b)* frozen in accordance with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747; and if she will make a statement. [134324]

Margaret Beckett: We have not made an estimate of the value of Iranian funds identified and frozen worldwide in accordance with the provisions of UN

Security Council Resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007). Bank Sepah and Bank Sepah International are the only Iranian entities designated by the UN to have so far been identified as holding assets in the UK. These assets were frozen on 24 March under the provisions of the Iran (Financial Sanctions) Order 2007. We are currently evaluating the frozen assets held in the UK. However, release of detailed information is subject to banking confidentiality and disclosure arrangements.

Iran: Oil

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether her Department has given advice to UK energy companies on investment in Iranian oil and gas projects; and if she will make a statement. [134010]

Margaret Beckett: Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK Trade and Investment officials here and in Tehran regularly brief representatives of UK energy companies, both on developments in the Iranian oil and gas industries and on the broader political context.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the number of Iraqi individuals at immediate risk because of their association with the British Army deployed to Southern Iraq; what assessment has been made of the protection these individuals may need once the British troops have been withdrawn; and if she will make a statement. [132736]

Des Browne: I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible to quantify the number of Iraqis who might be at risk by association with the British Army as the risk is not exclusive to those who may have been employed by the British Government in support of the forces. Any applications for assistance made by Iraqis after the departure of British forces from Iraq would be treated on a case-by-case basis; on their merits and in light of the circumstances pertaining at that time.

Italy: Diplomatic Service

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 37W, on Italy: diplomatic service, how many individuals received copies of the valedictory telegram of Sir Ivor Roberts. [136356]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 10 May 2007]*: The telegram was sent to a number of distribution lists in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Number 10, as well as to a range of overseas Posts. It would not be possible, without incurring disproportionate expense, to reconstitute how many individuals on these lists saw the document in September 2006.

Libyan Arab Republic: Weapons

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support has been given to Libya in relation to its decommissioning of weapons of mass destruction as agreed between Libya, the UK and third parties. [136163]

Dr. Howells: Libya's renunciation of its weapons of mass destruction programmes in December 2003 was a historic decision. The UK has been working closely with Libya and the United States, in particular through the Trilateral Steering and Co-operation Committee, to support Libya through the de-commissioning process.

This has included helping Libya to dismantle its nuclear weapons programme, allowing other international partners to convert its heavy-water nuclear reactor at Tajura into a light-water reactor. This in turn has helped Libya to meet the international standards required for its nuclear reactor to be placed under an Additional Protocol Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

A comprehensive programme of redirection and engagement with Libya's scientific community into more conventional areas is under way. This includes helping Libya to establish a regional nuclear medical centre, which would enable the production of nuclear isotopes for radiological medicine, and assistance and engagement with Libya's life-sciences community, particularly in the fields of human and animal infectious diseases, such as AIDS and Avian Influenza. Libya has also acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention and will, under the verification regime of that convention, destroy its chemical weapons stockpile by the end of 2010.

The UK is also pursuing wider scientific co-operation with Libya, and signed with Libya a Memorandum of Understanding on Science Co-operation on 27 March.

Marios Matsakis MEP

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the arrest and detention of Marios Matsakis MEP in Akrotiri Sovereign base area, Cyprus; and if she will make a statement. [136661]

Mr. Hoon: Having already failed to attend the Sovereign base area court following two previous summonses relating to alleged acts of criminal damage on property belonging to the Ministry of Defence in the Sovereign base areas, warrants were issued for the arrest of Dr. Matsakis. He was therefore arrested at the direction of the Court on 12 April, while making a visit to the Sovereign base areas. Although he was offered the opportunity of making a modest bail payment pending court appearance, Dr. Matsakis refused and declined an offer by a colleague to pay on his behalf. He was therefore remanded in police custody. Following concern for his health Dr. Matsakis was transferred to medical facilities in the Republic of Cyprus. This resulted in his leaving the jurisdiction of the Sovereign base areas and therefore his release from custody.

Measures for Civil Society Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is taking under the Measures for Civil Society programme (EU budget code 15 49 04 12); and if she will make a statement. [136638]

Mr. Hoon: No payment or commitment appropriations were entered under budget line 15 49 04 12 for the 2007 European Community Budget. We are not aware of any plans for the UK to take steps under this programme.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 919W to the hon. Member for Edinburgh, North and Leith (Mark Lazarowicz), on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which states have blocked progress on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. [136396]

Dr. Howells: No member state at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) objects in principle to a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). However, some nations have been unwilling to begin negotiations on such a treaty without further progress on their own priorities, even where these are issues that do not command consensus at the CD. In particular, China has previously stated that they are not willing to begin negotiations on an FMCT until their concerns over the prevention of an arms race in space are sufficiently addressed. In March this year the current six presidencies of the CD tabled a proposal designed to address the concerns of all member states and allow negotiations on an FMCT to commence without further delay. The UK continues to support the proposal and will work hard to secure consensus for its adoption when this year's second session of the conference begins on 14 May.

Occupied Territories: Security

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether US Security Co-ordinator General Dayton has produced a plan for security sector transformation within the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the reliable opening of the Kami crossing; and if she will place a copy of the plan in the Library of the House once it is available. [134327]

Margaret Beckett: US Security Co-ordinator General Dayton has produced a draft plan for Palestinian Security Sector Transformation. He is currently working with international partners and the Palestinians to develop this further and provide costings. This will provide further training, provision of non-lethal equipment to the presidential guard and details on proposals for the Kami crossing point between Gaza and Israel.

General Dayton's plan will be a private, sensitive document. We do not plan to place a copy in the Library of the House. However, we will keep the House informed of progress regarding Security Sector Transformation.

During their meeting on 15 April, Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian President Abbas discussed future security plans. Prime Minister Olmert promised to keep the Kami crossing open until 23.00 and that trucks would not be delayed longer than 24 hours at the crossing. The Israel Defence Force also said that they had removed 44 roadblocks in the West Bank and intended to remove a further 17.

Sequestration of Assets

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the extent to which the persons, entities and organisations identified in European Council decision 2007/242/EC of 23 April 2007 hold assets in the European Union which will be affected by the Council decision. [134857]

Margaret Beckett: The UK has not made an assessment of the extent to which the persons, entities and organisations identified in European Council decision 2007/242/EC of 23 April hold assets in the European Union, and is not aware of any assessments made by third parties. The legal instruments for implementing the assets freeze in the UK are the Iran (Financial Sanctions) Order 2007 and EC Regulation 423/2007. The Bank of England issued a notice to financial institutions on 24 April about the financial sanctions against Iran, following the adoption of EC Regulation 423/2007 and Council Decision 2007/242/EC.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK advocated the inclusion of additional persons, entities and organisations to the list of those subject to a freezing of economic resources agreed by the European Council on 23 April 2007; and whether she is satisfied by the action taken by the EU to date. [134858]

Margaret Beckett: The proceedings of EU working groups and committees are confidential under EU Rules of Procedure and the European Community Treaty.

We are satisfied that the EU has implemented robustly the measures imposed under UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747.

There will be opportunities to propose further individuals and entities to whom the measures adopted by the EU will apply through EU working group mechanisms at any time.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK is advocating that the European Union restrictive measures against Iran adopted under European Council decision 2007/242/EC of 23 April 2007 be strengthened; and if she will make a statement. [134859]

Margaret Beckett: The European Union has implemented robustly the measures imposed under UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1737 and 1747. The United Kingdom will not seek further measures before assessing Iran's response to UNSCR 1747.

Serbia: Council of Europe

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will suspend the UK's financial contribution to the Council of Europe pending review of the appropriateness of Serbia taking the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. [136732]

Mr. Hoon: The Government do not believe it would be in the United Kingdom's interest to suspend its financial contribution to the Council of Europe. To do so would be in breach of our obligations under Article 39 of the Statute. Failure to fulfil our financial obligations could result in the suspension of the UK's right of representation on the Committee of Ministers and Parliamentary Assembly. A suspension in contributions would also damage the vital work of the Council of Europe in promoting and protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe.

Serbia still has much work to do to meet its Council of Europe accession commitments, as well as other international obligations, in particular full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). However, we hope that their Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers will provide encouragement for Serbia to demonstrate its commitment to Council of Europe core objectives of human rights, democracy and the rule of law as well as other international obligations, in particular full co-operation with the ICTY.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe objecting to the rotation of the Presidency to Serbia in view of Serbian war criminals still at large. [136733]

Mr. Hoon: The United Kingdom is a strong supporter of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and regularly makes clear to countries of the region their obligation to co-operate fully with the Tribunal, as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1534. In February I delivered this message in Belgrade to the President and Prime Minister of Serbia.

Serbia's performance as Chair will be scrutinised by both a domestic and international audience. It is in Serbia's interests to fulfil its obligations as Chair to the highest standards. We hope that their Chairmanship will provide encouragement for Serbia to demonstrate its commitment to Council of Europe core objectives of human rights, democracy and the rule of law as well as other international obligations, in particular full co-operation with the ICTY.

The Parliamentary Assembly and Committee of Ministers will continue to monitor Serbia's commitment to Council of Europe values and treaty obligations. Monitoring will continue throughout their Chairmanship and will include co-operation with the ICTY.

Sheikh Hasina

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department received from the Bangladeshi government on the status of Sheikh Hasina. [135955]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the status of Sheikh Hasina with the Foreign Adviser to the Bangladesh caretaker government, Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, on 19 April. The caretaker government has since lifted the restrictions on Sheikh Hasina's return to Bangladesh.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions officials in her Department have had with Sheikh Hasina regarding the refusal of her Government to allow her return to Bangladesh. [135963]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has had no contact with Sheikh Hasina regarding the earlier decision of the Caretaker Government to prevent her from returning to Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina has not requested any such contact. On 19 April, the Caretaker Government lifted all restrictions on her return to Bangladesh.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when her Department was notified that Sheikh Hasina would not be allowed to return to Bangladesh on Sunday 22 April. [135964]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office learned on 18 April that the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh had instructed foreign civil aviation authorities and airlines that Sheikh Hasina would not be allowed to return to Bangladesh. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the position of Sheikh Hasina during a call by Dr. Iftekhar Chowdhury, the Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser, on 19 April.

Somalia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the likelihood of the proposed national reconciliation conference in Somalia taking place; and what support the UK is giving to the process. [134001]

Margaret Beckett: We welcomed the announcement by President Yusuf at the African Union summit on 29 January of his intention to convene a National Reconciliation Congress (NRC). However, it is crucial that the current fighting in Mogadishu ends, in order to allow the NRC to convene. With our international partners, we continue to press for an end to the violence, most recently at the International Contact Group on 3 April and at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23 April.

The UK, other international donors and UN agencies are supporting the Somali National Governance and Reconciliation Committee, which is charged with organising the Congress, in developing its plan for this. With our partners, the UK is currently providing technical expertise and advisory assistance.

We are ready to consider funding for the NRC once a fully costed final plan is finalised, which can achieve lasting peace for Somalia.

Sudan: EC Action

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK is advocating the adoption of EU measures against the Government of Sudan; and if she will make a statement. [132781]

Margaret Beckett: Following my lobbying, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council agreed strong conclusions on Sudan on 23 April. In particular, we are building on this support in pushing for further action from the UN Security Council.

Sudan: Religious Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the recent attack on Christian missionaries in the Nuba Mountains, Sudan. [136768]

Mr. McCartney: Bishop Anduda, the head of the Episcopal church in the Diocese of Kadugli and Nuba Mountains, and the Evangelical church in Khartoum told our embassy in Khartoum that four missionaries attached to the Evangelical church in Khartoum had been killed in an ambush of a lorry near Kadugli on 27 or 28 April, with five other people injured. We do not currently know the identity of the assailants, or whether the missionaries were the target or unintended victims of the attack.

The Government remain strongly committed to the protection of the human rights of all Sudan's citizens. We call on the Sudanese Government to ensure that all religions can be practised without fear of harassment or intimidation. We take seriously any infringement of religious freedom and remain in contact with church leaders. In addition, the Government are a strong supporter of the North/South Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Under this a range of peace building commissions are being established including a national Human Rights Commission and the Commission for the Protection of non-Muslim Rights in the national capital.

Sudan: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact of the targeted sanctions against the four individuals designated in UN Security Council Resolution 1591 (2005) on *(a)* the activities of those individuals and *(b)* the security situation in Darfur. [132782]

Margaret Beckett: We assess that sanctions are having an impact on the Government of Sudan as a whole. On 9 April, President Bashir finally agreed to the Heavy Support Package, which is one of the stepping stones leading to the deployment of the full African Union/UN peacekeeping package. But this is only a first step and we have made clear to the Government of Sudan and the rebels that they will be judged on actions, not just words.

Travel Restrictions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what diplomatic processes are in place to inform senior foreign political figures that their return to their home countries has been prohibited by their Government. [135962]

Dr. Howells: This is a matter for the state and the individual concerned. The approach of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will depend on the particular circumstances of each case.

Uganda: Democratic Republic of Congo

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on Ugandan support for the Mouvement de liberation du Congo; and if she will make a statement. [136690]

Mr. McCartney: We have not received any credible reports or evidence of current Ugandan support for the Mouvement de Liberation du Congo.

We have regular high-level discussions with the Government of Uganda and continue to impress upon them the need to play a constructive role in regional political processes and to respect the Democratic Republic of Congo's territorial integrity.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1779W, on Zimbabwe, whether she has received representations from her European counterparts on the proposal to add perpetrators of the violence against opposition figures in Zimbabwe to the list of those subject to an EU visa ban and assets freeze. [134003]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 403W, which confirms the addition of two further names to EU visa ban and assets freeze list.

Zimbabwe: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the government of Portugal on upholding the travel ban on Robert Mugabe and those closely associated with his regime in the context of the summit between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States to be held in Portugal in November. [136731]

Dr. Howells: The UK wants a successful EU-Africa Summit that signals the EU's commitment to Africa and confirms a genuine partnership between the two continents founded on a respect for good governance and human rights, which is currently lacking in Zimbabwe. We have made our views on Zimbabwean representation at the Summit clear to our EU partners. On 22 March the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, met with the Portuguese Ambassador where the matter of Mugabe attending the summit was raised. We will look to the Presidency for a solution on Zimbabwean attendance that is consistent with the EU Common Position on Zimbabwe.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Care Proceedings

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were the subject of new care proceedings in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year since 1997. [134671]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of applications (number of children) who were subject to new care proceedings in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year from 2003 to 2006.

Number of Public Law Children Act Applications made for a Care Order, 2003-06

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Bedfordshire	94	62	103	88
Cambridgeshire	56	12	9	53
Essex	75	633	686	62
Hertfordshire	212	138	162	217
Norfolk	179	176	270	228
Suffolk	90	32	90	148
England and Wales	12,022	10,870	13,399	12,590

Language Service Professionals

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will take steps to protect the professional title of language service professionals for deaf people, including *(a)* BSL/English interpreters, *(b)* lipspeakers, *(c)* deaf-blind interpreters and *(d)* speech to text reporters; [115951]

(2) if he will take steps to create a register of all language service professionals for deaf people, including *(a)* BSL/English interpreters, *(b)* lipspeakers, *(c)* deaf-blind interpreters and *(d)* speech to text reporters for public bodies; [115952]

(3) when he will answer Questions *(a)* (i) 115951 and (ii) 115952 tabled on 11 January, and *(b)* 126821, tabled on 7 March, by the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham. [128420]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have responsibility for funding providers of post-16 further education and training. This funding includes Additional Learning Support (ALS) which is used by providers to fund the additional learning needs of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, including those learners with, hearing impairments. Providers determine how their ALS funding is used to ensure that it meets the needs of their learners.

The Department is not responsible for protecting the professional titles, or providing a register of language service professionals, as it is for providers to determine how best to meet the needs of their learners, and therefore which professionals to use to deliver this support.

Poverty: Durham

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the rate of poverty is amongst children in *(a)* County Durham and *(b)* the City of Durham; and what it was in 1997. [126173]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available below the level of Government Office Region.

Pupils: Contraceptives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which schools in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the Metropolitan Police Area of London distribute the morning after pill to pupils (i) with and (ii) without parental knowledge or permission; and which plan to do so in the next 12 months. [136774]

Beverley Hughes: The data requested are not collected by this Department. Health professionals are able
to supply Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) to under 16s without notifying parents, provided they are satisfied that the young person is competent to understand fully the implications of any treatment. Our position is that EHC should be available to help prevent pregnancy in emergency situations, but not used as a substitute for more reliable forms of contraception.

Secondary Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary schools have *(a)* between 1,000 and 1,500 pupils, *(b)* between 1,500 and 2,000 pupils and *(c)* more than 2,000 pupils in each local authority area. [132179]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

DEFENCE

Service Personnel: Health Care

8. **Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision his Department makes for the healthcare of injured servicemen and women. [136576]

Derek Twigg: A key factor in the Government's duty of care towards the members of the armed forces is ensuring they receive high-quality medical care, both while deployed on operations and back in the UK. This can range from life-saving surgery in our deployed field hospitals and NHS facilities in the UK, to treatment of routine ailments on a daily basis. Our mental health services are configured in line with national best practice.

18. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of medical support for service personnel on their return to the UK from operational theatres; and if he will make a statement. [136589]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett).

Iraq

14. **Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Iraq. [136582]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Gainsborough (Mr. Leigh).

19. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Iraq. [136590]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Members for Gainsborough (Mr. Leigh) and Surrey Heath (Michael Gove).

QinetiQ

15. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with QinetiQ in relation to public access to *(a)* Foulness Island and *(b)* Ministry of Defence land operated by QinetiQ. [136583]

Derek Twigg: I have had no discussions with QinetiQ in relation to public access either at Foulness Island or at other Ministry of Defence sites operated by QinetiQ.

However, the Department is keen to maximise public access to its sites where possible, including those operated on its behalf by QinetiQ. Such access must be balanced with the need to ensure security and public safety.

Iran: Seizure of British Equipment

16. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made in recovering boats and equipment seized by Iran from UK armed forces in *(a)* June 2004 and *(b)* March 2007. [136586]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for New Forest, West (Mr. Swayne).

Helicopters

17. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve the availability of helicopters in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [136587]

Mr. Ingram: We keep the requirement for helicopters in both theatres under constant review.

Last summer my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary announced the deployment of an additional two Chinook to Afghanistan and an increase in the available helicopter hours.

On 30 March, he announced our plans to make an additional 14 helicopters available for deployment by converting eight Chinook Mk3 aircraft and purchasing another six Merlin from Denmark.

Landmines

20. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what his assessment is of the effectiveness of initiatives taken by the UK to remove landmines and explosive remnants of war. [136591]

Mr. Ingram: MOD has three initiatives to remove landmines and explosive remnants of war. These three projects are judged to be highly successful: the first involves 98 explosive ordnance disposal and de-mining personnel for the Kosovo Protection Corps. The second is the Bosnian project, which on completion will have destroyed over 10,000 tons of ammunition. And the third is the International Mine Action and Training Centre in Kenya, which has trained some 3,800 African and international personnel in de-mining and associated skills. Wider initiatives by the UK, funded by DFID at £10 million per year are targeted at the world's poorest nations which have reduced casualties significantly.

Afghanistan

21. **Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with NATO counterparts on NATO's commitment to operations in Afghanistan. [136592]

Des Browne: I meet frequently to discuss Afghanistan with my NATO counterparts and with Defence Ministers of other countries committed to operations in Afghanistan, such as Sweden and Australia.

Ballistic Missile Defence

22. **Mr. Greg Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the potential role of ballistic missile defence in UK security policy. [136593]

Des Browne: We welcome the recent announcement by the US to augment their ballistic missile defence system with interceptors based in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic, thereby also providing coverage for most of Europe, including the UK. We continue to examine the potential options for the role of ballistic missile defence in UK security policy, both with the US and other NATO allies.

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on the deployment of new armoured vehicles in Afghanistan. [136641]

Des Browne: The first batches of Mastiff and Vector protected patrol vehicles have been delivered to Afghanistan and deliveries will continue over the coming weeks and months.

I am withholding details of delivery schedules as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Air Force: Military Bases

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian aircraft (i) took off from and (ii) landed at each operational Royal Air Force flying station in the United Kingdom between 11 pm. and 7 am in the last 12 months for which figures are available on (A) weekdays and (B) weekends; and which stations were involved. [136439]

Mr. Ingram: These data will take time to collate. Once this work has been completed I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to place the order for the new aircraft carriers for the Royal Navy. [136180]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis) on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1848W.

Armed Forces: Children

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether there are any cases of families consisting of a married couple with children in which both parents are serving in combat overseas in HM armed forces; [130649]

(2) whether there are any cases in which all legal guardians of a child are serving in combat overseas in HM armed forces. [130650]

Derek Twigg: All three services have policies that aim to minimise the incidence of both service parents of children being deployed on operations concurrently, though the overriding factor is the identified operational requirement. Also, guidance is issued to service personnel to highlight the need for appropriate care arrangements to be in place.

The armed forces record the details of dependent children (children for whom a service person has parental responsibility). Records are not held of other arrangements made by service personnel for their children or for children of third parties.

At this time, records show there are fewer than five HM armed forces married (or civil partners) couples with children in which both parents are serving in combat areas overseas. This figure has been rounded up for data protection reasons to avoid the identification of any individuals.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what compensation was paid under the new Armed Forces Compensation Scheme for injuries and deaths in each month since the new scheme came into force; and if he will make a statement. [135328]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

2005-06 (6 April 2005 to 31 March 2006[1])	*Amount awarded in lump sums (including bereavement grants)*	£ *Amount awarded as a guaranteed income payment (including survivors guaranteed income payments)*
April	—	—
May	3,000.00	—
June	5,000.00	—
July	8,000.00	—
August	25,000.00	12,000.00
September	21,000.00	7,000.00
October	44,000.00	33,000.00
November	98,000.00	—
December	30,000.00	21,000.00
January	48,000.00	—
February	97,000.00	—
March	109,000.00	34,000.00

2006-07 (1 April 2006 and 23 November 2006[1 2])	*Amount awarded in lump sums (including bereavement grants)*	£ *Amount awarded as a guaranteed income payment (including survivors guaranteed income payments)*
April	194,000.00	15,000.00
May	166,000.00	28,000.00
June	314,000.00	46,000.00
July	283,000.00	11,000.00
August	586,000.00	40,000.00
September	459,000.00	20,000.00
October	646,000.00	61,000.00
November[3]	393,000.00	—

[1] Data have been rounded to the nearest £1,000.00.
[2] Data are not yet fully available for 2006-07.
[3] Data are not yet fully available for November 2006.

Armed Forces: Education

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what *(a)* facilities and *(b)* programmes are available for service personnel to continue education while on deployment in (i) Iraq, (ii) Afghanistan and (iii) the Balkans region; [135409]

(2) how much was spent on education centres by the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force in each year since 1997; [135410]

(3) how many education centres were closed in each year since 1997 in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force; and where each centre was located; [135411]

(4) how many education centres there are in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force; and where they are located; [135412]

(5) what education assistance programmes are available to spouses of serving service personnel. [135414]

Derek Twigg: As the information requested requires a lengthy response, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Parachuting

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on replacing the GQ 1000 parachute with the GQ 5000 following recommendation 7h of the RAF Board of Inquiry's Military Aircraft Accident Summary into the aircraft accident of Tornado F3 ZG751 of 25 August 2003; and if he will make a statement. [136170]

Mr. Ingram: The programme to replace the GQ 1000 parachute with the GQ 5000 on both the Tornado GR4 and F3 aircraft is being taken forward by Defence Equipment and Support in conjunction with Industry. The work will be undertaken as part of the Tornado seat scheduled maintenance cycle and the first aircraft are due to be fitted with the GQ 5000 parachute by September this year.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the progress of the strategic review of remuneration. [136035]

Des Browne: The Strategic Review of Remuneration is examining the strategic rationale and effectiveness of the whole armed forces financial reward package (including pay, allowances, compensation, specialist pay, and financial retention incentives) to ensure that we can attract and retain sufficient, capable and motivated personnel. The review is expected to produce options for consideration within the Department around the turn of the year.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes are planned to free postal services available to service people on operations overseas. [136773]

Mr. Ingram: There are no changes planned to the postal services available to service personnel on operations overseas.

Army Board: Mass Media

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance is issued to members of the Army Board on dealing with the media. [135291]

Derek Twigg: Guidance and support is provided to members of the Army Board as required, just as it is to Ministers and all senior officials who come into contact with the media as part of their official duties.

As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced on 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS, an independently-led review of media access to service personnel and the support and guidance they receive is currently under way.

Defence Communication and Services Agency

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely cost of external assistance to the Defence Communication and Services Agency in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [136128]

Mr. Ingram: The estimated cost for future External Assistance within Information Systems and Services (formerly the Defence Communication Services Agency) in the next three years is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Estimated future requirement (£ million)*
2007-08	35.706
2008-09	15.800
2009-10	24.173

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by his Department with outside suppliers in the last five years referred to in the answer of 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 809-10W, on information technology. [135621]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested (as at 4 May 2007) is shown in the following table:

	Contract	*Original estimated cost (£ million)*	*Most recently estimated cost (£ million)*	*Outturn cost (£ million)*	*Comments*
1	Skynet 5 (Satellite Communication Services)	2,775	3,660	157	Expenditure does not include expenditure from other areas within the Department that call up SATCOM services. 'Most recent cost' reflects revised contract to include a fourth satellite which if not used in event of failure of first three on launch will reduce costs to £3,273 million. £157 million is the 2006-07 figure, which is currently being validated through the end of year reconciliation process.
2	Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) (DII(F))	3,040	3,056	427	This relates to the Increment 1 and Increment 2a contract. The balance of Increment 2 and Increment 3 have not yet been let.

	Contract	Original estimated cost (£ million)	Most recently estimated cost (£ million)	Outturn cost (£ million)	Comments
3	Joint Personnel Administration (JPA)	237	257	162	These estimates comprise all extramural costs for JPA and include the cost of personnel administration services using JPA up to the end of financial year 2008-09. Outturn costs cover extramural expenditure to the end of financial year 2006-07 (subject to end year validation). Cost increase was very largely the consequence of delaying roll out to the Navy and Army while awaiting DII availability, however some improvements resulting from lessons learned during RAF rollout were also added to the programme.
4	Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP)	98	82	5.1	Outturn costs cover contract costs to date.
5.	Joint Asset Management and Engineering Solutions (JAMES)	30	23	16.9	These figures are for the Fleet Management MIS Project (known as JAMES 1). There is a potential requirement estimated at £9 million to enhance JAMES1 but as yet the requirement is not funded nor approved—therefore it has not been included. The Whole Fleet Management MIS Project, the second project within the JAMES Programme has completed its Assessment Phase and forms the IS supporting component of the Tri Service Whole Fleet Management Main Gate Business Case which is currently in draft. Once again, as this project is not approved and therefore unfunded, it is not included.

Note:
Purely voice communications systems are not considered to fall within the scope of the question.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the details of the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) design system solution were completed in advance of the decision to contract the ATLAS Consortium to implement the scheme in March 2005; and if he will make a statement. [136126]

Mr. Ingram: Following a free, fair and open competition involving a number of bidders, Atlas were selected to provide Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) services on the basis of their overall proposal, which included an overview of their technical design. As with all bidders, the proposal did not include the complete system solution design but contained design detail that was sufficient for bid evaluation and contract award.

Departments: Internet

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department's website cost to run and support in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [135776]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence corporate Departmental Website, www.mod.uk, incurred the following direct costs in the financial year 2006-07:

	£
Staff	125,000
Hosting and Maintenance	44,500
Hardware	8,375
Total	177,875

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army who served in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan were discharged as a result of psychiatric problems in each of the last five years. [131637]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member once the figures have been collated.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many traumatic amputations there have been in the recent 2 Rifles Operation Telic tour. [136511]

Des Browne: The number of personnel from 2 Rifles recently deployed in Iraq who have become amputees on active service is not held centrally. To obtain these details would require the examination of the individual medical records of each of the patients who has been classified as very seriously injured (VSI) or seriously injured (SI) for the period of the deployment. These

records can only be viewed for non-clinical reasons with the express consent of the individual concerned, to protect patient confidentiality.

The MOD is committed to publishing statistics on the number of service personnel killed and injured on operations. Casualty and fatality figures for Iraq and Afghanistan are published on the MOD website (http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets). Casualty figures are updated fortnightly, in arrears.

Jaguar Aircraft

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the out-of-service date for the Royal Air Force's Jaguar aircraft was brought forward to 29 April 2007; when this decision was taken; when this decision was communicated to No. 6 Squadron; and if he will make a statement. [135945]

Mr. Ingram: The Jaguar aircraft were due to be retired from service in October 2007. As part of a regular, routine review of the entire Defence programme the decision was made on 3 April 2007 to bring their retirement forward to 30 April. This measure will not have an operational impact and will allow the earlier release of experienced personnel into the Typhoon Force. The decision was communicated to No. 6 Squadron, the last remaining RAF Jaguar squadron, at a briefing by their Station Commander and Force Commander on 24 April. Many personnel have already been informed of their future appointments and Personnel Management Officers are having discussions with all other personnel that will be affected. The RAF will make every effort to minimise any disturbance experienced by the personnel concerned.

Lynx Helicopters: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Minister expects the new Lynx helicopter to be available to UK forces in Afghanistan. [129448]

Mr. Ingram: The Future Lynx helicopter, for which orders were placed in June 2006, is expected to enter service in 2014.

Military Aircraft: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pilots began fast jet training in each year since 2000; how many have completed such training; and if he will make a statement. [135921]

Mr. Ingram: The following table gives details of the number of Royal Air Force and Royal Navy pilots who entered fast jet training, and the number of pilots who successfully completed this training prior to conversion to aircraft type at the Operational Conversion Unit. On average, fast jet pilots will exit training two years after entering.

This information is only held for the last five financial years.

Financial year	Number of pilots entering Fast Jet Training	Number of pilots successfully completed Fast Jet Training
2002-03	[1]110	65
2003-04	70	65
2004-05	45	45
2005-06	40	45
2006-07	45	45

[1] In financial year 2002-03 the figure is artificially inflated due to the fact that there were two courses that started just within the boundaries of this financial year (on 8 April 2002 and 31 March 2003).

Note:
All figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Navy: Officers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 206-07W, on Navy: officers, and 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1359W, on Navy: deployment, what the reasons are for the change in the ratio of the number of senior officers of rank commodore and above to the number of ships in service since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [134514]

Derek Twigg: In 1997, the ratio of serving officers of rear-admiral rank and above to ships in-service was 1:2.72 (36 admirals to 98 ships) and currently it is 1:2.27 (33 admirals to 75 ships).

The ratio of commodores to the number of ships in 2007 is 1:1.29 (58 commodores to 75 ships). As I stated in my answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 206-07W, there was no substantive rank of commodore in 1997.

There is no simple relationship between the number of senior officers serving in the Royal Navy and the number of ships in the Royal Navy. A significant number fill tri-service posts.

Navy: Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Royal Navy bonuses and *(b)* Royal Naval Reserve bounty payments for the fiscal year 2007-08 were (i) missed and (ii) mispaid by the Joint Personnel Administration. [136040]

Derek Twigg: The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, which is responsible for such payments, is not currently aware of any missed or mispaid commitment bonus payments due to top Royal Naval personnel. Annual bounties for Royal Naval Reserve personnel for service during fiscal year 2006-07 were successfully paid in April 2007 through the Joint Personnel Administration system. While it cannot be predicted in which month annual bounties will be paid for service in fiscal year 2007-08, the majority are normally paid in April of each calendar year following the end of the training year on 31 March.

Initiation of both the bonus and bounty payments is governed by the timely provision of details of entitlements from units.

Proof of Identity: Ministry of Defence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 208W, on proof of identity: Ministry of Defence, how many security passes have been reported lost in each of the last five years. [136153]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* Across the MOD central London office buildings (Main Building, Old War Office Building and St. George's Court) the following numbers of passes have been reported as lost or stolen:

	Passes lost	*Number Passes stolen*
2002	79	18
2003	109	18
2004	103	21
2005	77	13
2006	71	13

Separate figures are not available for individual buildings.

Service Personnel

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 164W, on service personnel, if he will place in the Library the minutes of all meetings of the Families Working Group held in 2006 and 2007. [133165]

Derek Twigg: I have today placed the redacted minutes of the Families Working Group meetings held during 2006 and 2007 in the Library.

Territorial Army: Driving

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the effect of the Drivers' Hours and Rest Time Regulations on Territorial Army manpower and effectiveness. [123854]

Mr. Ingram: EU Regulation No 561/2006 on working hours for drivers, which came into effect on 11 April 2007, inevitably applies to a limited number of Territorial Army personnel who in their civilian employment are vocational drivers.

As it does not apply to members of the Territorial Army once they are mobilised, we do not envisage the introduction of this legislation affecting our ability to conduct current operations.

We are conducting a systematic assessment of the likely impact on the Territorial Army over the medium term, and individual cases over the next few months are likely to help inform our assessment. We are also confident that, with minor adjustments to Territorial Army training patterns, vocational drivers can continue to serve for the foreseeable future. We are also working, along with our colleagues in the Department for Transport, on ways to reduce the impact of this change in the longer term.

Warships

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what lessons the Royal Navy has learned from the weather-related incident on HMS Sovereign last summer in Plymouth Sound, when two members of the ship's company were trapped in the superstructure; what advice has been issued in consequence to other naval users of Plymouth Sound; and if he will make a statement. [135190]

Mr. Ingram: A ship's investigation into the incident was carried out at the time, which concluded that established procedures were not fully followed. The correct procedures are promulgated to all Royal Navy submarines. A Near Miss Report, drawing lessons from the Ship's Investigation, was distributed throughout the RN submarine fleet in March 2007. In addition, Royal Navy submarines not based at Devonport are briefed about the constraints, limitations, hazards and dangers of operating in or around Plymouth Sound and are expected to carry an Admiralty Pilot when entering or leaving this port.

The Royal Navy is also considering whether there are lessons to be learned from the tragic incident in December 2006 involving the USS Minneapolis St. Paul, in which two men lost their lives, following the recent publication of the US investigation into the incident.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Allowances: Kent

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Kent county council on the minimum allowances payable to carers. [136828]

Mrs. McGuire: Carer's allowance is payable at a single rate and is uprated annually. It has been the practice for many years to increase carer's allowance in line with the retail prices index.

There have been no formal discussions between DWP Ministers and officials from Kent county council on the rate of carer's allowance.

Employment Schemes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the current training schemes available through Jobcentre Plus. [132865]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our employment programmes, especially the New Deals, have helped to significantly reduce unemployment and are internationally renowned as being very successful. This has been achieved through bringing people closer to the labour market which has included the provision of training.

We regularly undertake assessments of the effectiveness of employment programmes including training schemes. There are evaluations of all new programmes involving

independently commissioned projects, internal performance monitoring and thorough reviews for Her Majesty's Treasury spending reviews.

However, we realise there is more to do and we are currently considering the recent Freud and Leith reviews which recommend ways of further improving training opportunities.

Employment Schemes: Agriculture

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to work in partnership with the National Care Farming Initiative to help people return to employment. [132570]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are keen to work in partnership with private and voluntary sector organisations and although we have no current plans to work in partnership with the National Care Farming Initiative, we would welcome their engagement with us.

Employment Schemes: Lone Parents

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what analysis his Department has conducted into the reasons for failure to attend a Work Focused Interview by those lone parents sanctioned in 2005-06. [136157]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* The most recent research on the effect of the sanctioning regime on lone parents is the qualitative research conducted by Joyce and Whiting in April and May 2005: Sanctions: Qualitative summary report on lone parent customers; DWP Working Paper No. 27, Lucy Joyce and Karen Whiting. This report is available in the Library.

In 2008, we expect to publish outcomes from qualitative research into the effect of benefit sanctions on employment decisions and moves into employment by lone parents and will place this in the Library.

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of lone parents receiving sanctions for failing to attend a Work Focused Interview. [136158]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* The purpose of Work Focused Interviews (WFIs) is to ensure that lone parents know about the support that is available to help them move into work. Lone parents who receive income support are told they have to attend WFIs as a condition of receiving their benefit, and to ensure this requirement is understood, we have reviewed the communications we send to lone parents to ensure they are clear and unambiguous.

Considerable effort is made to reduce the possibility of lone parents receiving benefit sanctions.

We telephone them to remind them of their appointment and re-arrange the WFI if necessary.

If a lone parent fails to attend their WFI on the first occasion, we telephone or write to them and if they make contact within five working days no sanction is imposed.

If no contact is made within five working days and the lone parent is considered to be in a vulnerable group, a home visit will be arranged. If contact is made, the interview will be rearranged, deferred or waived as appropriate.

Where contact is not made, a letter will be left at the lone parent's home address giving them a further five days to contact Jobcentre Plus.

If the lone parent fails to attend again, we write to them asking them to demonstrate good cause for their failure to attend their WFI. If contact is made by the lone parent and good cause demonstrated, the appointment will again be re-arranged, deferred or waived as appropriate, and no sanction imposed.

If no contact is made by the lone parent but they subsequently attend a Jobcentre Plus office prior to the sanction being imposed, an attempt will be made to hold the interview immediately to prevent the sanction being imposed.

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what analysis his Department has conducted of the impact on attainment of the Government's child poverty target of the number of lone parents sanctions for failing to attend a Work Focused Interview in 2005-06. [136159]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* The information requested is not available.

Employment: Discrimination

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures his Department is taking to combat discrimination against black and Asian women in the workplace; and if he will make a statement. [132287]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The Government want everyone to achieve their potential at work, and recognise that women from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups may face additional barriers to doing so, because of a combination of factors related to gender, ethnicity and in some cases, religious belief. While black and Asian women are increasingly well qualified, and there are many successful women from these communities, there is compelling evidence that many black and minority ethnic women do find it harder to get into employment, to progress at work, and to be paid fairly.

Measures introduced by the Government to support parents and carers in the workplace and to eliminate discrimination benefit women from all backgrounds equally. These include improved maternity rights, better access to child care, and the right for parents of young or disabled children and carers of adults to request flexible working. In addition, the Government remain committed to ensuring that the legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment on the grounds of sex, race and religion or belief is properly enforced, and believes that the establishment of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights will assist in addressing instances of multiple discrimination.

Further, black and Asian women will benefit from progress on steps taking place across Government to address the gender pay gap and its underlying causes.

These are set out in "Towards a Fairer Future, Implementing the Women and Work Commission" recommendations, published in April this year. More details can be found in that report of a number of initiatives specifically designed to benefit women from minority ethnic communities in finding and progressing in employment, including the Cities Strategy; Partners' Outreach; Work Search Premium; the Deprived Areas Fund; work with employers on recruitment and progression arising from a report by the National Employment Panel's Business Commission; employer-led Fair Cities pilots in Birmingham, Leeds/Bradford and Brent, London; and a range of regional activities. The Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force is taking a pro-active strategic approach to addressing the particular challenges faced by minority ethnic and minority religious women, and will shortly be reporting back to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to propose a focused set of priorities around procurement and employer engagement —including tackling employer discrimination, not just in recruitment to the workplace but also in progression through it.

In the public sector, the duties to promote race and gender equality and to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on these grounds will ensure that black and Asian women are not disadvantaged in the workplace.

Jobcentres: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people used each Jobcentre Plus branch in the London borough of Sutton in each of the last five years; [132638]

(2) how many staff were employed at each Jobcentre Plus branch in the London borough of Sutton in each of the last five years. [132641]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 14 May 2007:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your questions about the number of people who used each of our offices in the London Borough of Sutton in each of the last five years, and the number of staff employed at those offices in the same period. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In 2002 there were two offices in Sutton—Sutton Jobcentre and Sutton Social Security Office. The Sutton Social Security Office dealt with personal callers and Incapacity Benefit processing for the London Boroughs of Sutton, Merton, Kingston and Richmond and the county of Surrey. With the reorganisation of benefit delivery work the Incapacity Benefit work was moved in stages to other centres prior to the closure of the Social Security Office in March 2006. Sutton Jobcentre Plus opened on 9 January 2007.

Information on the number of people using the offices is not available as people do not have to receive benefits to use the job search facilities. The available information on the number of staff who were working at both Sutton Jobcentre and Sutton Social Security Office, including those who are now working at the Jobcentre Plus Office is in the table. Sutton Jobcentre now provides the full range of Jobcentre Plus services.

	Sutton Jobcentre[1]	*Sutton Social Security Office*[1]
April 2004	32.8	73.3
March 2005	30.45	59.98
March 2006	35.85	20.63
March 2007	[2]47.26	—

[1] Figures are for full-time equivalents (i.e. two people working half normal hours will count as one person) Staffing records are retained only for three years so figures for 2003 are not available.
[2] The March 2007 figure is for number of staff employed at Sutton Jobcentre Plus.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to David Freud's recommendation to transfer lone parents to jobseeker's allowance, or other appropriate benefit, when their youngest child reaches 12 years of age. [131831]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have said in the recent "Working for Children" child poverty strategy report that we think we should consider a move to jobseeker's allowance for those that are able to work, with the same basic financial entitlements, but with a much greater work focus. We are considering David Freud's recommendations carefully and will respond in the summer.

New Deal for Disabled People: Take-up

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants there were in the New Deal for Disabled People each month since 1998; how many in each month successfully found employment; and how many of those people have remained in employment for longer than six months. [119990]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 8 February 2007]:* New deal for disabled people (NDDP) has, year on year, been successful in increasing the proportion of participants it has helped into work. Information on the number and proportion of participants on the programme who have been helped into work since the programme started in July 2001, is in the table.

New deal for disabled people

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Starts	13,360	34,000	38,270	62,340	70,390
People into jobs	1,780	8,350	14,980	26,800	33,130
Percentage of job entries to starts	13	25	39	43	47

Notes:
1. Figures relate to April to March each year, apart from 2001-02, which relates to July 2001 to March 2002.
2. Starts data relate to registrations with Job Brokers, and jobs relate to jobs gained via Job Brokers.

Information on employment lasting for longer than six months through new deal for disabled people is not available. Information broken down by month since the programme started in July 2001 is in the table.

	Participants	People gaining a job
2001		
July	1,410	40
August	2,780	120
September	3,720	190
October	4,760	180
November	6,510	290
December	7,360	180
2002		
January	8,750	220
February	10,630	300
March	13,010	470
April	15,210	490
May	18,030	750
June	19,820	580
July	22,030	670
August	24,490	850
September	26,770	970
October	29,050	1,070
November	31,770	1,260
December	32,710	600
2003		
January	34,730	920
February	37,120	970
March	39,550	1,030
April	41,200	1,180
May	43,040	1,420
June	45,170	1,280
July	47,320	1,300
August	49,420	1,490
September	51,740	1,740
October	54,040	2,160
November	55,500	1,720
December	56,150	1,160
2004		
January	57,960	1,640
February	60,110	1,690
March	62,540	1,870
April	65,420	2,540
May	68,670	2,270
June	71,590	2,380
July	75,790	2,790
August	78,750	2,480
September	82,040	3,000
October	85,800	3,810
November	88,540	3,150
December	89,670	2,330
2005		
January	92,160	2,570
February	95,360	2,940
March	98,130	2,810
April	101,630	3,710
May	104,110	3,060
June	106,250	2,860
July	109,380	3,530
August	112,110	2,900
September	115,910	4,450
October	119,100	3,790
November	122,210	3,710
December	123,500	2,700
2006		
January	125,660	3,030
February	130,490	3,330
March	134,580	4,660
April	137,640	3,540
May	140,720	3,530
June	144,110	4,320
July	147,550	3,600
August	151,530	3,690

Notes:
1. The table includes separate figures for the number of people participating in a particular month, and the number of people gaining a job in a particular month.
2. People participating in a particular month may have gained a job in a subsequent month, and so will be recorded in that month as gaining a job.
3. New deal for disabled people started in July 2001.
4. Latest data are to August 2006.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

Pension Credit: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Easington constituency received pension credit in each of the last three years. [135858]

James Purnell: The answer is in the following table.

Household recipients of pension credit in Easington constituency, 2004-06

As at August each year	Household recipients
2004	4,990
2005	5,070
2006	5,190

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Pensioners: Council Tax Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of owner occupier pensioner households receive council tax benefit. [134148]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Council tax benefit (CTB) recipients aged 60 and over who are owner occupiers: Great Britain, May 2004

	Number/Percentage
CTB recipients aged 60 and over who are owner occupiers	677,000
Percentage of owner occupier pensioner households in receipt of CTB	14.4

Notes:
1. Caseloads and household population figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and percentages to one decimal place.
2. CTB figures are based on a one per cent sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
4. Council Tax Benefit figures exclude any Second Adult Rebate cases.
5. 'Aged 60 and over' figures refer to cases where the claimant and/or partner is aged 60 or over. Therefore figures may contain some claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged over 60.

Sources:
1. Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system, annual one per cent sample, taken in May 2004.
2. Survey of English Housing 2004-2005 (DCLG)
3. Living in Wales Survey 2004 (Welsh Assembly)
4. Scotland's Census Results Online (Scrol) 2001 (Scottish Executive)

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps have been taken by his Department to inform pensioners of their entitlement to *(a)* pension credit and *(b)* winter fuel allowance; and if he will make a statement. [134017]

James Purnell: The information is as follows:

Pension Credit

The Pension Service has undertaken a wide range of steps to encourage eligible pensioners to claim pension credit.

We have written to everyone who we believe may have an entitlement to pension credit, encouraging them to apply.

In addition, we are improving our service and encouraging take up by enabling new customers who call to claim their state pension to also apply for pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit in a single call if appropriate.

The Pension Service Local Service offers face-to-face visits to the most vulnerable pensioners during which full benefit entitlement checks are carried out. One million home visits were carried out during 2006-07.

The Pension Service Local Service is continuing to work very closely with local partners (including local authorities and voluntary organisations such as Help the Aged and Age Concern) to maximise take up of pension credit. We are widening the scope of partnership activity and expanding our current work programme with key utilities and other major companies whose customers include likely eligible non-recipients of pension credit. These activities are being supported by national press advertising to maintain the high profile of pension credit. Local marketing and media campaigns will be targeted in those regions and areas where there are relatively high numbers of eligible non-recipients.

Winter Fuel Payment

Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 or over (men and women). Over 99 per cent. of the payments are made automatically without the need to claim. Some people who are not in receipt of a benefit administered by DWP need to claim. Each year we send claim forms automatically to everyone whom we know from departmental records will be aged 60 by the end of the qualifying week and for whom we have a current address. An extensive publicity campaign begins in July and includes advertisements in both regional and national newspapers.

Poverty: London

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* all people, *(b)* children, *(c)* working age disabled people and *(d)* disabled children in London were living in severe low income (defined as less than 40 per cent. of contemporary median income) in each year since 1996-97. [136012]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested is not available.

Retirement: Age

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average retirement age is for couples who are *(a)* childless and *(b)* not childless. [135453]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Benefits Rules

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what consideration he has given to the introduction of a single working age benefit as recommended by David Freud; [131830]

(2) what discussions he has had with private sector organisations on the introduction of a single working age benefit, as recommended by David Freud. [131832]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In our Green Paper "A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work" we said that there may be advantages in moving in the longer term towards a single system of benefits for all people of working age. We will consider the issues further in the light of David Freud's report and recommendations. No specific options have been discussed with commercial organisations.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what further consideration he has given to the introduction of a work-related activity premium for lone parents with older children, as proposed in the Welfare Reform Green Paper. [131833]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Following the publication of reports by Lisa Harker and David Freud, we are reconsidering our welfare reform proposals to ensure we have consistent and effective policies to tackle child poverty. We still feel that the Work Related Activity Premium (WRAP) could be a powerful incentive to help lone parents prepare for work and we are now looking at ways of incorporating the premium in our evolving plans for lone parents and poorer families.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women reaching age 60 in 2005 are recorded as having at least one year of Home Responsibilities Protection which *(a)* did not coincide with a year which qualified for a retirement pension on the basis of contributions or credits, *(b)* did coincide with such a year and *(c)* coincided with a year in which there was a Class 1 reduced rate National Insurance election. [123887]

James Purnell *[pursuant to the reply, 14 March 2007, Official Report, c. 382W]:* Of those women reaching age 60 in 2005-06:

(a) Around 180,000 are recorded as having at least one year of Home Responsibilities Protection which did not coincide with a year which qualified for basic state pension on the basis of contributions and/or credits.

(b) Around 140,000 women are recorded as having at least one year of Home Responsibilities Protection which did coincide with a year which qualified for basic state pension on the basis of contributions and/or credits.

(c) Finally, around 60,000 are recorded as having at least one year of Home Responsibilities Protection which coincided with a year in which there was a class 1 reduced rate national insurance election.

As a result of these issues the information used to answer this PQ only includes data up to and including the 2003-04 tax year.

Additionally, the figures in the response are based on information available for women aged 58 in 2003-04, since these women are aged 60 in 2005-06. No allowance has been made for deaths between 2003-04 and 2005-06.

Figures refer to women living in the UK as well as women living overseas.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.
2. Figures refer to women living in the UK and overseas.

Source:

Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2006 release.

Unemployment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people of working age were out of employment in each year since 1977-78, broken down by *(a)* unemployed, *(b)* lone parents on income support, *(c)* those on incapacity benefit, *(d)* retired people and *(e)* other; and if he will make a statement. [124621]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information is not available in the format requested; the information is not available prior to 1999. The available information is in the following table.

Working age claimants of "out-of-work" benefits by statistical group, Great Britain: as at August each year 1999 to 2006

	Job seekers	Incapacity benefits	Lone parents	Others
1999	1,199,720	2,655,390	945,060	305,120
2000	1,040,250	2,714,850	920,100	277,900
2001	935,920	2,763,800	900,220	259,100
2002	919,220	2,769,620	875,040	253,440
2003	880,120	2,777,170	851,730	243,440
2004	798,290	2,775,050	818,100	247,310
2005	856,300	2,725,540	789,350	241,990
2006	931,450	2,683,130	783,190	243,310

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. "Out-of-work" benefits are jobseeker's allowance (JSA), income support (IS)/pension credit (for males aged 60 to 64 from October 2003), incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA).
3. "Jobseekers" are recipients of jobseeker's allowance.
4. "Incapacity benefits" are recipients of incapacity benefit (IB) or severe disablement allowance, including those in receipt of IB credits-only.
5. "Lone parents" are single recipients of income support with a child under 16.
6. "Others" are other recipients of "out-of-work"" benefits not included in the other three columns.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data.

Winter Fuel Payments

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what procedures are in place to allow people to claim the winter fuel allowance retrospectively in cases where they had not been notified of its availability; [134865]

(2) what steps his Department takes to notify people about their eligibility to claim the winter fuel allowance benefit as they first become eligible. [134866]

James Purnell: Over 99 per cent. of winter fuel payments are made automatically without the need for a claim as we hold sufficient information on our benefit systems to identify the vast majority of eligible people. Some people who are not in receipt of a benefit administered by DWP need to claim. Each year we send claim forms automatically to everyone who is not in receipt of a benefit administered by DWP, but whom we know from departmental records, will be aged 60 by the end of the qualifying week and where we have a current address. We also run an extensive publicity campaign which begins in July and includes advertisements in both regional and national newspapers. Information on winter fuel payments is also included in a number of leaflets including "Are you over 50?" and "The Pensioner's Guide", as well as a specific winter fuel payment leaflet and on The Pension Service website at

www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/winterfuel.

Claims for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 may still be made. Payments were originally made during these years to people receiving specified benefits only. Following a change in the rules in 2000, payments became available to people aged 60 or over regardless of whether they were receiving a benefit. This also applied to the earlier years and therefore no time limits were imposed for claims for these years. Time limits for claiming winter fuel payments apply from winter 2000-01 onwards and for people who need to claim, claim forms are available from July for the oncoming winter. In order to be successful, claims must be

submitted by 30 March the following year. Any claims received after the cut off date will be disallowed. There is a right of appeal against any disallowance decision.

Winter Fuel Payments: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Easington constituency received winter fuel allowance in the last three years. [135859]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Easington constituency

	Payments made
2004-05	16,450
2005-06	16,580
2006-07	16,680

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. Figures for 2006-07 refer only to the main payment run so they do not include the late payment run figures. We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 people in Great Britain paid in late payment runs (0.8 per cent. of all payments). Since most of the payment runs are to people who are not receiving another benefit from DWP and whose claims had not been received by the qualifying week, most are men aged 60 to 64.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: National Lottery

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the investment returns were for *(a)* the Community Fund and *(b)* the Scottish Arts Council from National Lottery funding (i) in August 2006 and (ii) in the last period for which figures are available; how much Lottery funding is yet to be allocated by (A) the Community Fund and (B) the Scottish Arts Council; what that figure was in August 2006 in each case; how much the (1) Community Fund and (2) the Scottish Arts Council received from the Lottery in 2006; and how much each is expected to receive in 2007. [136598]

Mr. Caborn: The following table shows the Community Fund's income from the National Lottery Distribution Fund for the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07, and for August 2006 alone. The last available period for the Community Fund was for the financial year up to 30 November 2006, after which it ceased to exist when the Big Lottery Fund was legally created.

Community Fund

	Operator related income to nearest £1,000	Investment income to nearest £1,000	Total income to nearest £1,000
Entire financial year 2005-06	230,631,000	7,686,000	238,317,000
August 2006	19,401,000	430,000	19,831,000
Financial year 2006-07 to 30 November 2006	134,602,000	3,794,000	138,396,000

The following table shows the Scottish Arts Council income from the National Lottery Distribution Fund for the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07; for August 2006 alone, and estimated figures based on the Department's latest income projections, for 2007-08.

Scottish Arts Council

	Operator related income to nearest £1,000	Investment income to nearest £1,000	Total income to nearest £1,000
Entire financial year 2005-06	17,851,000	1,608,000	19,459,000
August 2006	1,502,000	103,000	1,604,000
Entire financial year 2006-07	15,552,000	1,326,000	16,878,000
Financial year 2007-08[1]	15,931,000	1,213,000	17,144,000

[1] Estimated

The Community Fund provided my Department with data on the level of unpaid commitments at the final day of each quarter of the financial year. The closest figure to August 2006 that we have available is September 2006.

On 30 September 2006 the Community Fund's balance in the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) was £132,532,189. Its forward commitments including both contractually binding and 'in principle' commitments totalled £346,067,280. It was therefore overcommitted on its NLDF balance by £213,535,091.

The Scottish Arts Council provides my Department with data on the level of unpaid commitments at the final day of each quarter of the financial year. The closest figure to August 2006 that we have available is September 2006.

On 30 September 2006 the Scottish Arts Council's balance in the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) was £33,149,518. Its forward commitments including both contractually binding and 'in principle' commitments totalled £25,894,345.00. It therefore had in its NLDF balance £7,255,173 which was not allocated.

On 31 March 2007 the Scottish Arts Council's balance was £31,762,643.69. Its forward commitments, including both contractually binding and 'in principle' commitments totalled £26,011,419. It had therefore not allocated £5,751,225.

British Grand Prix: Tourism

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of *(a)* the number of overseas tourists coming to the UK for the Grand Prix and *(b)* the contribution of such tourists to the economy. [136220]

Mr. Woodward: No information is held centrally on overseas tourists coming to the UK for the Grand Prix.

Channel Four Television: Finance

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with *(a)* Channel 4 and *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the future funding of the channel. [136827]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular discussions with Channel 4 on a wide range of topics, including the channel's funding position. She has had discussions with the Chancellor on a broad range of topics relevant to the work of the Department. The Government have made clear that it will await the conclusion of Ofcom's current financial review of Channel 4 before making any decisions on possible measures of assistance for the channel.

Churches Conservation Trust

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under what statutory powers her Department intends to change the audit arrangements of the Churches Conservation Trust. [137012]

Mr. Lammy: The Churches Conservation Trust has been classified as a non-departmental public body for the purposes of its relations with Government, on account of a number of the Trust's characteristics and the nature of its relationship with Government. In its response to Lord Sharman's Report on Audit and Accountability in Central Government (Cm 5456—March 2002), the Government agreed that all non-departmental public bodies should be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General. This was in line with the practice that had been adopted since 1997. Since 2003, the Treasury has used its powers under section 25(6) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 to give the Comptroller and Auditor General statutory audit responsibility for more than 30 NDPBs and this is the legislation it will use in the case of the Churches Conservation Trust.

Cultural Heritage: Iraq

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1327W, on cultural heritage: Iraq, what *(a)* reports she has received on and *(b)* assessment she has made of the damage to sites of cultural heritage in Iraq since 2003. [136370]

Tessa Jowell: My Department received a copy of a report compiled by Dr. John Curtis, Keeper of the Department of the Ancient Near East at the British Museum, who in 2005, at the invitation of the Iraqi Government, carried out an assessment of the damage caused to the site of Babylon.

Additionally, in February 2007 Dr. Curtis visited the important Mesopotamian site of Ur to assess its condition. Dr. Curtis' report on this visit is still being compiled.

English Institute of Sport: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the salary is of the Chairman of the English Institute of Sport; and what other public appointment he holds. [136939]

Mr. Caborn: Steve Cram, Chairman of the English Institute of Sport (EIS) does not receive a salary from the EIS and holds no other public appointments.

Gambling: Fees and Charges

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's most recent estimate is of the costs to the gaming industry arising from the changes brought about by the Gambling Act 2005; and whether her Department plans to update the Regulatory Impact Assessment in light of the results of the consultation process and the finalisation of the regulatory orders. [136688]

Mr. Caborn: The Department has no plans to update the RIA that was published in April 2005 with the Gambling Act. If appropriate, we prepare impact assessments for each element of the secondary legislation required to implement the Gambling Act 2005 and these are published with the related Explanatory Memorandum document on the Office for Public Sector Information website and separately in the Better Regulation section of the Department's website.

Leeds United Football Club

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will instigate discussions with the football authorities on the implications for football in the community initiatives in which Leeds United Football Club is involved of the club's financial problems. [137049]

Mr. Caborn: The Government welcome the significant grass roots and community work undertaken by football clubs. Football in the Community initiatives are now well established at virtually all professional football clubs in England and Wales, working to increase participation, promote healthy and active lifestyles and enabling clubs to forge meaningful relationships with their local communities. The Government are fully committed to supporting this work and continue to do so through Football Foundation funding.

Neither the Secretary of State nor I have any plans to discuss with the football authorities the implications of Leeds United FC's financial difficulties for their football in the community scheme. This is a matter for the club and the football authorities.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library a copy of the presentation given by KPMG on 28 November 2005 to update the Olympic cost review steering group members on progress of the study. [133636]

Tessa Jowell: There is no copy of the presentation given by KPMG. This was an oral report, as is recorded in the minutes.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who the members are of the Olympic Board, referred to in Note 3 of the minutes of the Olympic cost review steering group of 28 November 2005. [133643]

Tessa Jowell: The members of the Olympic Board on 28 of November 2005 were the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, Lord Coe, Chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and Lord Moynihan, Chairman of the British Olympic Association.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library a copy of the draft report that was produced by KPMG referred to in point four of the minutes of the first meeting of the Olympic cost review steering group held on 31 October 2005. [133644]

Tessa Jowell: No draft report was produced as KPMG's role was changed at that time to one of providing ongoing advice to the Department as part of the more detailed cost review that we were undertaking.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the briefing notes provided to the Treasury as referred to in Note 2 of the minutes of the Olympic cost review steering group of 14 November 2005; [133663]

(2) for what purpose the Treasury needed the briefing referred to in Note 2 of the minutes of the Olympic cost review steering group of 14 November 2005. [133665]

Tessa Jowell: As there was no briefing to the Olympic board steering group on 22 Dec 2005, no briefing was provided to the Treasury on this matter.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* dates and *(b)* ministerial attendees were for each meeting held to brief the Treasury on the findings of the cost review. [133664]

Tessa Jowell: The dates of meetings were 20 July and 21 September 2006. The Ministers attending were as follows:

On 20 July—the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, the Minister for Sport and myself.

On 21 September—I met with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many compulsory purchase orders the Government have made for land to be used for the 2012 Olympic Games. [134584]

Tessa Jowell: Two compulsory purchase orders (CPOs) have been made by the London Development Agency (LDA) to secure the delivery of the land required for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and the long-term regeneration of the Lower Lea Valley.

The Undergrounding of Powerlines, Lower Lea Valley CPO 2005 enables the 52 pylons that lie within the Lower Lea Valley to be removed and the electricity powerlines that they currently carry across the park to be buried.

The Lower Lea Valley, Olympic and Legacy CPO 2005 was made to ensure that the LDA is able to meet its commitment to assemble all of the land required for the long-term cohesive and sustainable regeneration of the area.

Following public inquiries in 2006, the LDA has now had its compulsory purchase powers for both CPOs confirmed by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the proportion of the Olympic Delivery Authority's construction work which will quality for Industrial Buildings Allowance. [135569]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* According to the current legislation industrial buildings allowances (IBA) can be applied for by the person with a relevant interest who incurs expenditure on the construction of an industrial building once it is brought into use for the purposes of a qualifying trade. The main qualifying trades are manufacturing, processing, certain storage businesses and transport undertakings. However, as announced in this year's Budget this particular allowance is to be phased out by 1 April 2011. As a result, it will not have any potential application to the construction and legacy use of the Olympic Park.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what value of Lottery funds she estimates will be diverted from good causes in Northern Ireland as a result of the increase in the estimated cost of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [136027]

Tessa Jowell: Of the additional £675 million I announced on 15 March, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland will contribute £2.5 million and the Sports Council for Northern Ireland £2.3 million.

Of the relevant UK-wide distributing bodies, Heritage Lottery Fund will make a contribution towards the additional £675 million of £90.2 million and Big Lottery Fund will make a contribution of £425 million. It is for these distributors to determine the proportion of their funding which goes to Northern Ireland.

Grants already made need not be affected and we have agreed with the Big Lottery Fund that resources for the voluntary and community sector will be protected. The sector will still receive at least the amount implied by Big's earlier commitment, that is, around £2 billion.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the total budget for the London Olympics in 2012 set aside for direct funding of cultural events which are part of the cultural Olympiad is for *(a)* mandatory ceremonies, *(b)* bid projects and signature events and *(c)* UK cultural festivals. [136605]

Mr. Lammy: The mandatory ceremonies will be directly funded from the London 2012 Organising Committee's budget for the 2012 games. It is confident that the mandatory ceremonies will be funded within

its £2 billion revenue budget. The bid projects and signature events and the UK-wide cultural festival will be delivered and funded in partnership with a range of public and private partners.

Sports: Children

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many children in *(a)* West Bromwich, East constituency and *(b)* the West Midlands region have been nominated for a talented athlete scholarship scheme since its introduction. [136716]

Mr. Caborn: Since its introduction in 2004 the talented athlete scholarship scheme has distributed an award to one athlete in the West Bromwich East constituency and 174 in the West Midlands region.

Sports: Funding

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what conditions are set by UK Sport for recipients of World Class Performance programme funding in relation to party political activity. [136940]

Mr. Caborn: UK Sport does not set specific conditions for recipients of World Class Pathway funding in relation to party political activity. The fundamental basis of the terms and conditions set out in the Athlete Personal Award are there to protect an athlete's performance. An athlete's political persuasion is not a matter for UK Sport, unless it could be proved that as a result of their activity, it brought the Performance Programme into disrepute.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provision she has made for the continuation of funding to the Community Club Development Programme once the current funding cycle ceases. [136941]

Mr. Caborn: Funding for the Community Club Development Programme beyond 2008 will be subject to the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Sports: West Midlands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of Supporters Direct and the Supporters Trust Initiative in the West Midlands region. [136720]

Mr. Caborn: Supporters Direct was established in 2000 and aims to deliver responsible democratic representation at football clubs through the establishment of Supporters Trusts. Over 140 trusts have already been established with Supporters Direct's help and over 120,000 people have been introduced to local democratic structures as club trust members.

Supporters Direct has either directly or indirectly helped with the establishment of 27 trusts in the Midlands area of which 12 are located in the West Midlands. It has a full-time development worker providing dedicated help, advice, assistance and guidance along with access to training programmes and funding opportunities to the region.

AFC Telford, a trust-owned club, has become a beacon of the supporters trust movement. Following the liquidation of the old Telford United during the 2003-04 season, AFC Telford established a supporters' trust which has made an important contribution to the club's success both on and off the field.

Also, through funding from the Football Foundation, the club has created a successful community hub at their ground, the New Bucks Head, in the form of a learning centre which I had the pleasure of opening.

UK Film Council: Funding

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the projected funding allocation is for the UK Film Council in each of the next two financial years. [136717]

Mr. Woodward: For 2007-08, the UKFC will receive £24.11 million of grant in aid funding plus a £1 million capital award to go to the British Film Institute. The level of the grant in aid funding for 2008-09 will be dependent on a decision made in the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

The UK Film Council also receives lottery funding. It is not possible to exactly forecast income from the lottery but, based on current projections for 2007-08, this funding might total around £30 million.

The lottery funding available to the UK Film Council in 2008-09 cannot yet be estimated. It will depend to a significant extent on decisions made following consultation with lottery distributors on how to accommodate the proposed transfer, subject to parliamentary approval, of funds held in the National Lottery Distribution Fund to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund after 2009.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people took sick leave for stress in his Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135475]

The Deputy Prime Minister: None.

Post Offices

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent progress has been made in considering the responses to the consultation on the future of the Post Office Network. [131690]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Post Office Network consultation concluded on 8 March 2007 and the Government received over 2,500 representations, which are currently being given full consideration.

I am chairing discussions on the Government's response in the appropriate Cabinet Committee, and we hope to be able to announce our final decisions shortly.

JUSTICE

Courts: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to her Answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1452W, on courts: manpower, what research has been undertaken into the reasons for court service staff leaving. [136486]

Ms Harman: Data in relation to the reasons for leaving Her Majesty's Courts Service are held on the HR IT system. The detail of why a person left is held locally and monitoring is carried out to assess trends and to decide any action that might need to be taken.

For the period April 2006 to March 2007 the reasons for leaving HMCS were:

	Percentage
Resignation	68.50
Retirement	22.60
Death in Service	1.27
Dismissal	3.95
Severance	1.40
Loan to OGD	0.90
Transfer to OGD	1.38

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs for which Government websites she is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135716]

Vera Baird: The information requested is listed in the following table. The table details annual costs and unique visitors, for the period April 2006 to March 2007, for each of the websites for which my Department is responsible. We have a small number of contracts that provide support and maintenance for multiple sites. Where this is the case, the total cost of the contract is detailed underneath the table.

Ministry of Justice website costs and unique visitors April 2006-March 2007

Organisation	*Site address*	*Costs (£)*	*Unique visitors*
Adjudicator to HM Land Registry	www.ahmlr.gov.uk	Tribunals	13,633
Asylum and Immigration Tribunal	www.ait.gov.uk	Tribunals	452,109
Civil Justice Council	www.civiljusticecouncil.gov.uk	Central	35,227
Commission for Judicial Appointments	www.cja.gov.uk	Central	11,614
Commissioner for Judicial Appointments for Northern Ireland	http://cjani.courtsni.gov.uk	NICS	3,725
Community Justice	www.communityjustice.gov.uk	Central	9,989
Community Legal Service	www.clsdirect.org.uk	411,414	1,567,393
Coroners Service for Northern Ireland	www.coronersni.gov.uk	NICS	4,623
Council on Tribunals	www.council-on-tribunals.gov.uk	Central	32,420
Criminal Courts Review	www.criminal-courts-review.org.uk	Central	49,867
Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel	www.cicap.gov.uk	Tribunals	26,279
Department for Constitutional Affairs	www.dca.gov.uk	Central	2,868,072
Employment Appeal Tribunal	www.employmentappeals.gov.uk	Tribunals	383,994
Employment Tribunals	www.employmenttribunals.gov.uk	Tribunals	1,055,966
Family Justice Council	www.familyjusticecouncil.org.uk	Central	23,660
Finance and Tax Tribunals	www.financeandtaxtribunals.gov.uk	Tribunals	125,187
Gambling Appeals Tribunal (launched January 2007)	www.gamblingappealstribunal.gov.uk	Tribunals	1,178
Gender Recognition Panel	www.grp.gov.uk	Tribunals	26,052
General Commissioners of Income Tax	www.generalcommissioners.gov.uk	Tribunals	11,529
Her Majesty's Courts Service	www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk	301,980	4,940,248
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Court Administration	www.hmica.gov.uk	Central	27,957
Hutton Inquiry	www.the-hutton-inquiry.org.uk	Central	54,283
Immigration Services Tribunal	www.immigrationservicestribunal.gov.uk	Tribunals	16,939
Information Tribunal	www.informationtribunal.gov.uk	Tribunals	30,388
Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman	www.judicialombudsman.gov.uk	Central	4,007
Judicial Appointments Commission	www.judicialappointments.gov.uk	Central	79,015
Judicial Studies Board	www.jsboard.co.uk	Central	184,478
Judicial Studies Board for Northern Ireland	www.jsbni.com	NICS	4,088
Judiciary	www.judiciary.gov.uk	Central	165,975
Land Registry	www.landreg.gov.uk	48,792	2,497,403
Land Register Online	www.landregisteronline.gov.uk	As above	No data available
Lands Tribunal	www.landstribunal.gov.uk	Tribunals	73,580
Law Commission	www.lawcom.gov.uk	Central	394,411
Legal Services Commission	www.legalservices.gov.uk	37,100	616,879

Ministry of Justice website costs and unique visitors April 2006-March 2007

Organisation	Site address	Costs (£)	Unique visitors
Legal Services Research Centre	www.lsrc.org.uk	130	No data available
Legal Services Review	www.legal-services-review.org.uk	Central	No data available
Mental Health Review Tribunal	www.mhrt.org.uk	Tribunals	27,185
Money Claim online	www.moneyclaim.gov.uk	948,000	[1]69,422
National Archives	www.nationalarchives.gov.uk	440,930	7,005,974
Northern Ireland Court Service	www.courtsni.gov.uk	241,504	118,009
Northern Ireland Court Service Education Online	www.education.courtsni.gov.uk	NICS	No data available
Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission	www.nijac.org	NICS	10,318
Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsman	www.nijao.gov.uk	NICS	No data available
Office of Judicial Complaints	www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk	Central	9,342
Office of Legal Services Ombudsman	www.olso.org	2,256	101,211
Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner	www.olscc.gov.uk	Central	11,201
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	www.officialsolicitor.gov.uk	Central	35,840
Party Funding Review	www.partyfundingreview.gov.uk	Central	11,328
Pensions Appeal Tribunal	www.pensionsappealtribunals.gov.uk	Tribunals	7,818
Possession claims online (launched end October 2006)	www.possessionclaim.gov.uk	370,385	[1]2,020
Public Guardianship Office	www.guardianship.gov.uk	Central	432,786
Review of Legal Aid Procurement	www.legalaidprocurementreview.gov.uk	Tribunals	34,661
Social Security and Child Support Appeals Tribunal	www.appeals-service.gov.uk	Tribunals	64,440
Social Security and Child Support Commissioners	www.osscsc.gov.uk	Tribunals	134,026
Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal for England	www.sendist.gov.uk	Tribunals	35,015
Transport Tribunal	www.transporttribunal.gov.uk	Tribunals	20,374
Tribunals Review	www.tribunals-review.org.uk	—	No data available
Tribunals Service	www.tribunals.gov.uk	Tribunals	67,642

[1] Number of claims issued through the site. Unique visitor numbers are not available.

Staff costs are not included and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following two contracts are provided by Cable and Wireless under contract.

Central contract: £715,344

Tribunals contract: £109,764

NICS: Northern Ireland Court Service has its own hosting and maintenance arrangements at an annual cost of £274,296.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 7098W, on freedom of information, for what reasons her Department decided to publish submissions to the first round of consultation on the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Draft Regulations 2007 only after the completion of the second round of consultation; and what consideration was given to the merits of publication of the first round of responses while the second round was still active. [136245]

Vera Baird: The consultation paper published by my Department on 14 December 2006 attracted interest from a variety of people and organisations, some of whom commented on the principle of the changes being proposed while others suggested that they would have welcomed an opportunity to do so.

To ensure that people have the opportunity to express those views, my Department published a supplementary paper on the consultation inviting further comments on the principle of amending the 2004 regulations and also any further views on the draft regulations themselves as set out in the full consultation paper. The supplementary paper should be read together with the full consultation paper CP 28/06. The consultation period has therefore been extended until 21 June 2007

My Department will publish its response only after we have carefully analysed and considered all the consultation responses together at the end of the consultation period.

Sharia Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of Sharia courts in operation in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [135663]

Ms Harman: Sharia law has no jurisdiction in England and Wales.

There are however, a number of Sharia councils in England and Wales that, on a private basis where the parties consent, deal with the mediation and resolution

of personal and contractual disputes. These councils are not part of the court system. In all cases, parties will always have recourse to the UK courts.

Magistrates Courts

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many magistrates' courts there are in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas. [135519]

Ms Harman: There are 360 magistrates courts in England and Wales. Of the 323 magistrates courts in England, 106 are in rural and 217 in non-rural areas based on the DEFRA (Rural Definition and Local Authority classification). No information is available is on rural/non-rural areas for the 37 Welsh courts based on local authority classification.

Sentencing

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1455W, on sentencing, what factors the Court of Appeal Criminal Division considers in ensuring consistency of sentencing. [136335]

Ms Harman: It is a matter of judicial discretion as to what factors the Court of Appeal Criminal Division take into account when considering an appeal. Among the factors likely to be considered are any guidelines of the Court of Appeal, any guidelines published by the Sentencing Guidelines Council, and common practice identified by previous decisions of that court.

Tribunals: Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average cost was of hearing an incapacity benefit appeal at a tribunal in the last 12 months. [136151]

Vera Baird: The information my hon. Friend has asked for is not available in the format requested as data are gathered over all appeals and not by specific benefit type.

The overall average cost of clearing a Social Security appeal during the 2005-06 year was £260.

Victims Surcharge

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate has been made of the impact of the implementation of the victims surcharge on the level of monies received from fines imposed by magistrates courts. [135607]

Ms Harman: It is estimated that there will be no significant impact on the level of monies received from fines imposed by magistrates courts following the implementation of the victims surcharge.

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what account is taken of the extent to which an offence has a victim in determining whether to apply the victims surcharge to the fines imposed on the perpetrators of that offence. [135208]

Ms Harman: In determining whether to apply the victims surcharge no account is taken of the extent to which an offence has a victim. The surcharge is paid by all offenders sentenced to a fine in the criminal courts, whether or not any other penalty is imposed.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Buildings

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) when building work on Project George is planned to commence; [137093]

(2) which Minister authorised the commencement of the works for Project George; [137080]

(3) whether the Cabinet Office has submitted a *(a)* planning application and *(b)* listed building consent request to facilitate the Project George building works. [137085]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2198W.

Departments: Golden Arrow Public Affairs

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what meetings Ministers in the Cabinet Office have had with representatives of Golden Arrow Public Affairs in the last 12 months. [137083]

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136861]

Hilary Armstrong: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Ministerial Residences

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 890W, on ministerial residences, what the cost was of refurbishing the flat above 10 Downing Street. [136995]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 890W.

Information will be published in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts when these have been audited.

Policy Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans she has to publish a full breakdown of the costs of the Government's Policy Review. [137003]

Hilary Armstrong: The Policy Reviews are still in progress and costs will not be available until they are complete. It will not be possible to provide a complete breakdown of all the costs, because some cannot be separated out from other work undertaken by officials.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the timetable is for implementing recommendations from the Government's Policy Review. [137004]

Hilary Armstrong: The recommendations from the Policy Review are feeding into a range of Government business including the Comprehensive Spending Review, PSA targets and future departmental plans and strategies. Next steps specific to individual reviews are set out in the published reports, available on the Cabinet Office website.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1017-18W, on the policy review, what estimate she has made of the cost of producing the presentations made as part of the Policy Review. [137042]

Hilary Armstrong: It is not possible to separate out costs to date of producing presentations from those of other work for the Policy Reviews. Full costs for the Reviews will not be available until after they are complete.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1018W, on the Policy Review, how much has been paid to companies or organisations other than IPSOS-MORI as part of the Government's Policy Review. [137051]

Hilary Armstrong: Full payments to outside organisations in connection with the Policy Reviews will not be known until the reviews are complete.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1018W, on the policy review, what estimate she has made of the cost of producing reports and publications as part of the Policy Review. [137052]

Hilary Armstrong: The Policy Review process is still under way and final costs will not be available until after it is finished.

HOME DEPARTMENT

British Nationality: Applications

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applicants for British citizenship who made applications for naturalisation based on passes in tests on knowledge of life in the UK have had their application held in abeyance while the investigation into City-Wide Learning is underway; [131379]

(2) what the outcome is of his investigations into City-Wide Learning, based in Sheffield; and if he will make a statement; [131380]

(3) when he expects those applicants for British citizenship who have made applications for naturalisation based on tests of knowledge of life in the UK, and who have had their application held in abeyance while he investigates City-Wide Learning, to be told the outcome of their application. [131381]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The investigation by South Yorkshire Police is still ongoing and it would not be appropriate to comment at this stage.

Proposals are being drawn up for further consideration of the applications being held in the light of concerns about the City-Wide Learning Centre in Sheffield. The applicants will be notified of the outcome of these deliberations as soon as possible.

Burglaries: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1136-40W, on burglaries: Greater London, why *(a)* recorded crime data are published on a financial year basis and *(b)* conviction data are published on a calendar year basis; and if he will make a statement. [135576]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: In 1997-98, agreement was reached to collect and publish the recorded crime data on a financial year basis. This was to reflect the movement to an increasingly performance-related culture. Police forces were already publishing financial year data in their chief constables' annual reports and the decision to move also removed the unnecessary effort by the police of providing calendar year data centrally.

The annual Command Paper "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales" which contains data on convictions, has been published on a calendar year basis for many years and there has been no decision to change this. Since the decision to publish recorded crime data on a financial year basis, there has not been a demand to align the period covered by both publications.

Child Rescue Alert

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Child Rescue Alert Service introduced by police forces. [134371]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 27 April 2007]*: The use of Child Rescue Alert is an operational matter for the chief officer of each individual force concerned. The scheme is sponsored by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and is based on a model piloted by Sussex police. ACPO advise that since the scheme was rolled out nationally in 2006, there have been no activations and consequently no evaluation has taken place. I understand from the National Policing Improvement Agency that Child Rescue Alert will be included as part of the NPIA's bi-annual review of the National Missing Persons Guidance.

Community Policing

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the performance of each safer neighbourhood team in Leyton and Wanstead. [136392]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office is monitoring and evaluating the neighbourhood policing programme across England and Wales through a strategic research programme. The results will be published in due course.

The Home Office also continues to assess police performance, including the impact of neighbourhood policing, through the Police Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF). Inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary also provide a qualitative assessment of neighbourhood policing delivery.

Community Support Officers

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community support officers have become full members of the police force. [132860]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not centrally collected.

Community Support Officers: Pay

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what meetings he has held with representatives of police community support officers on introducing a single national rate of pay for police community support officers; [132956]

(2) what guidance he has issued to police authorities on salary levels of police community support officers. [132957]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has not held any meetings about the introduction of a single national rate of pay for PCSOs and no guidance has been issued on salary levels for PCSOs.

Crime: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what percentage of crime in each of the last five years alcohol was determined as a contributing factor; and what trends are discernible in the figures. [136433]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected centrally, it is not possible to identify those offences which are alcohol related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime data series.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) provides information on the proportion of violent incidents in England and Wales where the offender was thought to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. According to the latest BCS (2005-06) the offender was thought to be under the influence of alcohol in 44 per cent. of violent incidents. This level is as it was in 2001-02 (the apparent fall from 47 to 44 per cent. is not statistically significant). See Table 1 for figures from 2001-02 to 2005-06.

The proportion of other crime related incidents where the offender was thought be under the influence of alcohol has not been estimated.

This information was published by the Home Office in the Crime in England and Wales 2005-06 and Violent Crime Overview, Homicide and Gun crime 2004-05 publications. This information is via Home Office websites

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0506.html and

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0405.html

Table 1 Whether offender/s under the influence of drink in violent incidents

	British Crime Survey				
Under influence of alcohol	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Yes	47	44	50	48	44
No	44	45	40	43	47
Don't know	9	11	10	9	9

Criminal Casework Team

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* internal and *(b)* external reviews of the Criminal Casework Team have been conducted in the last five years. [124221]

John Reid: I refer the hon. Member to the evidence given on 6 June 2006 to the Home Affairs Committee by Lin Homer, the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency. During this evidence session, the chief executive provided a comprehensive account of the operation of the criminal casework directorate and the systematic failings which led to foreign nationals being released without deportation consideration.

The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency also explained in her letter of 9 October to the same Committee that an independent review is being undertaken by the Senior Director of Enforcement into how the release of the foreign national prisoners occurred. She anticipates receiving the review soon and will subsequently share the findings and lessons learned.

Departments: Internet

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department *(a)* sponsors and *(b)* funds the confidential access website; and if he will make a statement. [135311]

Joan Ryan: The site in question is not sponsored or funded by the Home Office.

Driving Offences: Blackwall Tunnel

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists were *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* convicted of dangerous driving in the Blackwall Tunnel in each of the last five years. [135066]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 May 2007]*: The information requested on arrests is not held centrally.

Fines

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been given on-the-spot fines by the police since 1997; and what percentage went on to re-offend. [134764]

Mr. McNulty: The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme was implemented in all police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under provisions in the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Prior to this the police did not have the option of issuing on the spot fines for minor offences, having instead to issue a caution, reprimand or final warning or refer offenders to the court system to bring them to justice. Data from the Penalty Notices for Disorder database held by the Office for Criminal Justice reform show that 210,120 PNDs were issued to offenders from January 2004 to December 2005. Provisional data for 2006 show that a further 192,583 were issued in that year.

Data on the number of people issued with more than one PND are not held centrally and no estimate has been made. However, police forces do keep records of PND recipients on local databases which help inform local operational decisions. Forces are also required to enter details of those PNDs issued for recordable offences on the Police National Computer; however not all PND offences are recordable.

Table 1c: Number of PNDs issued to offenders aged 16 and over, by police force area, all offences, England and Wales 2004, 2005 and January-June 2006 provisional data

Police force area	*2004*	*2005*	*[1]2006*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	508	3,244	3,876	7,628
Bedfordshire	503	1,239	1,602	3,344
Cambridgeshire	359	1046	1,346	2,751
Cheshire	972	2,387	2,265	5,624
Cleveland	559	2,806	3,552	6,917
Cumbria	578	1,220	1,677	3,475
Derbyshire	656	1,593	2,537	4,786
Devon and Cornwall	1,889	5,134	6,976	13,999
Dorset	516	1,381	2,262	4,159
Durham	597	1,149	1,583	3,329
Essex	2,802	4,454	4,357	11,613
Gloucestershire	473	1,721	2,654	4,848
Greater Manchester	2,253	7,256	10,532	20,041
Hampshire	2,116	3,658	4,365	10,139
Hertfordshire	412	1296	5,312	7,020
Humberside	1,596	3,265	5,385	10,246
Kent	767	5,032	6,889	12,688
Lancashire	5,077	10,222	12,401	27,700
Leicestershire	756	1,909	2,376	5,041
Lincolnshire	544	2,373	1,930	4,847
London, City of	60	219	305	584
Merseyside	3,929	11,937	11,269	27,135
Metropolitan	12,758	18,047	20,171	50,976
Norfolk	475	676	1,323	2,474
North Yorkshire	1,078	1,596	2,367	5,041
Northamptonshire	570	1,403	2,498	4,471
Northumbria	211	2,147	6,307	8,665
Nottinghamshire	1,060	2,119	2,205	5,384
South Yorkshire	2,098	3,710	5,989	11,797
Staffordshire	1,450	2,169	3,209	6,828
Suffolk	472	901	1,460	2,833
Surrey	203	641	2,819	3,663
Sussex	1,509	4,193	5,023	10,725
Thames Valley	1,038	5,795	6,676	13,509
Warwickshire	481	933	1,016	2,430
West Mercia	275	1,774	3,433	5,482
West Midlands	4,773	7320	7,925	20,018
West Yorkshire	4,277	9,217	8,866	22,360
Wiltshire	610	1,080	1,224	2,914
Dyfed Powys	459	1,214	1,353	3,026
Gwent	424	1,511	1,908	3,843
North Wales	1,255	3,792	6,049	11,096
South Wales	241	1,702	5,311	7,254
England and Wales	63,639	146,481	192,583	402,703

[1] Provisional figures

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will provide a substantive response to question 91073, tabled on 6 September 2006, on non-criminal prisoners detained under the Immigration Act 1971. [129684]

John Reid: My hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe) wrote to the hon. Member on 8 May 2007.

Metropolitan Police: Translation Services

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Metropolitan Police spent on translators in each of the last five years. [136406]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 672W, to my hon. Friend the Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown).

National Disabled Police Association

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety has met representatives from the National Disabled Police Association to discuss their current funding arrangements. [133836]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 April 2007]*: I have established a pattern of regular meetings with the National Disabled Police Association and other police associations. I last met NDPA representatives on 17 April 2007 and discussed arrangements for the funding of their organisation.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans his Department has for levels of funding to the National Disabled Police Association; [133837]

(2) what funding his Department provided to the National Disabled Police Association in each of the last two financial years. [133838]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answers 24 April 2007]*: The Home Office provided £10,000 in funding for 2005-06 and £37,000 in 2006-07. In addition, the Home Office has provided funding of £31,000 to the National Disabled Police Association (NDPA) for 2007-08 and has committed to providing the same amount for each of the next two years.

Police Manpower

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1082W, on police manpower, what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in the numbers on the effectiveness of policing; and if he will make a statement. [134300]

Mr. McNulty: Effective policing is delivered by police officers, police staff and police community support officers. Decisions on their number in each force is a matter for the Chief Officer of Police. In December 2006 I suspended the system of financial penalties attached to the Crime Fighting Fund to provide greater flexibility for forces to plan their workforce. It is too early to assess the impact of this decision, but we are monitoring officer numbers on a quarterly basis and will intervene if there are genuine performance concerns that are clearly linked to a fall in officer numbers. In addition, the review of policing in England and Wales which the Home Secretary has asked Sir Ronnie Flanagan to carry out will consider the efficient and effective use of resources.

Police National Computer: Personal Records

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many records have been removed from the Police National Computer as exceptional cases at the discretion of senior police officers where the data subject had been wrongfully arrested; [128739]

(2) how many records were removed from the Police National Computer as exceptional cases at the discretion of senior police officers in each year since 2003. [128740]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 March 2007]*: We only have records since the introduction of the Association of Chief Police Officers 'Retention Guidelines for Nominal Records on the Police National Computer incorporating the Step Down Model' which was published in March 2006.

In 2006—79 cases removed with another 46 cases in the process of removal.

In 2007—one case removed with 23 cases to be removed.

Police: EU Countries

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the meetings he has held with Ministers from other European Union countries on policing matters between 1 January and 31 March 2007. [133845]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 April 2007]*: Home Office Ministers meet their EU counterparts on a regular basis at the Justice and Home Affairs Council. My hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office attended the Informal Council in Dresden on 15-16 January and the formal Council in Brussels on 15-16 February. Policing matters were discussed at both.

During the period 1 January to 31 March 2007, the Home Secretary met the Irish Tánaiste and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. McDowell and Vice President of the European Commission, Commissioner Frattini. Policing matters such as organised crime and the Prüm information exchange system were discussed at both meetings. In addition, I visited Turkey to discuss organised crime in March.

Police: Finance

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on police funding in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* the East Midlands. [136638]

Mr. McNulty: Northamptonshire and all police authorities in the East Midlands are receiving their fair share of available funding.

This year Northamptonshire is receiving £71.7 million in general grants, an increase of 3.6 per cent. (£2.5 million) over the equivalent figure for 2006-07. This is in line with the broadly flat rate increase of 3.6 per cent. for all forces in England and Wales including the other forces in the East Midlands. In addition to general grant, Northamptonshire will continue to benefit from an estimated £10 million from a range of other funding.

Police: Heathrow Airport

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many armed police were asked to assist with the arrival of former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Heathrow airport on 22 April; and what the cost was of their employment for this period. [136114]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis.

Police: Training

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding is planned for police training in each of the next three financial years. [136301]

Mr. McNulty: Funding for Police Training is largely a matter for individual chief constables and police authorities. This is reviewed on an annual basis.

There are a number of centrally funded programmes which support national training priorities which are now the responsibility of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA).

The NPIA's business plan contains a commitment to a major review of national training provision. The plan is available to download from www.npia.police.uk and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Police: Transport

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces provide subsidised public transport for their staff. [132312]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not collect data on whether police forces providing subsidised public transport for their staff. This is a matter for the respective forces.

Police: Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has held with *(a)* ministerial colleagues, *(b)* representatives of industry and *(c)* police forces on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles in tackling (i) crime and (ii) terrorism. [133846]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 April 2007]*: The Home Office continues to monitor and explore the development of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology for a range of policing and security applications through the Home Office Scientific Development Branch and Home Office Aviation Advisor working in conjunction with Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Air Support Committee.

An area of overriding concern for UAV deployment is the safety of other aircraft and members of the public. These are such important issues that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) places substantial restrictions on when, where and how such aircraft might be deployed. Unfortunately, however attractive the UAV solution may appear at first sight the CAA/safety issues cannot be put aside.

Representatives of industry are being consulted and involved through groups such as the UAV Systems Association. These industry representatives are also working closely with CAA and other regulatory bodies to ensure safety concerns are identified and addressed in opening up the potential future use by the police in UK civil airspace.

Prison Service: Corruption

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to strengthen the approach of HM Prison Service against staff corruption; how many full-time equivalent staff are engaged in activities against staff corruption inside HM Prison Service; what budget has been allocated to the *(a)* detection and *(b)* discipline of staff involved in staff corruption in HM Prison Service; who is responsible for the management of the effort against staff corruption in HM Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [136120]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

There is an on going improvement plan to strengthen the approach to tackling corruption within the Prison Service. The matter of resources and staff has been addressed previously in my response to the hon. Gentleman on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1518-19W and 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1683W.

Corruption is tackled through the operational line, with policy being set by HMPS Security Group overseen by the Director of High Security

Prison Service: Termination of Employment

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many HM Prison Service staff were dismissed for suspected criminal activity at each prison establishment in each of the last five years; what proportion of these cases involved *(a)* police investigations and *(b)* prosecutions; and if he will make a statement. [136121]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The public sector Prison Service does not currently hold the information centrally in the format requested. The contracted estate has been able to provide some information on the number of staff dismissed in the last five years, which is contained in the following table Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table Number of dismissals from contracted prisons for suspected criminal activity in the last five years, and the no. of police investigations and prosecutions arising

	Dismissals					*Investigations and prosecutions*
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	
Ashfield	0	<5	0	0	0	<5
Bronzefield	[1]	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dovegate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Bank	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	[2]<5
Lowdham Grange	0	<5	<5	<5	0	5 investigations <5 prosecutions
Parc	0	0	0	0	0	Nil
Peterborough	[3]		<5	<5	<5	[4]<5 investigations
Altcourse, Rye Hill, and Wolds[5]	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5

[1] Opened June 2004.
[2] Corporate HR at Kalyx is unable to confirm whether any further investigations or prosecutions were carried out for dismissals at HMP YOI Forest Bank.
[3] Opened March 2005.
[4] Corporate HR at Kalyx is unable to confirm whether anyone was prosecuted as a result of police investigations at HMP Peterborough.
[5] Due to the reporting system used by Corporate HR at GSL, figures are only available as a combined total for all three of the sites that they manage. NB Numbers are expressed as 'less than five' in order to avoid the identification of individuals.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of HM Prison Service staff had their appeals against dismissal upheld by the Civil Service Appeals Board in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [136123]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Information in the format requested is only available for the last two years and is shown in the following table. Further information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Table: Number of appeals by HM Prison Service staff considered and upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in the last two years

	Total number of appeals considered	*Number upheld*
2005-06	46	12
2006-07	56	20

Prisons: Training

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which companies were contracted by his Department to carry out training for *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* prison staff in each of the last five years. [135835]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested on companies contracted for training both public sector prisoners and public sector prison staff is available in part only. The information is drawn from the contracts register held by the Prison Service National Procurement Unit and a list of current HM Prison Service suppliers is as follows. In addition, Serco, G4S, Kalyx and GSL are contracted by the Home Office to provide private sector custodial places, including the provision of training. Additional information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Current Providers of Education Services to Prisoners

Amersham and Wycombe College
Blackpool and Flyde College
CfBT
City College Manchester
City College Norwich
Dudley College
East Riding College
Evesham College
Derby College
Filton College
Gwent College
Highbury College
Isle of Wight College
Kent Adult Education
Kingston Upon Hull
Lancaster and Morecambe College
Matthew Boulton College
Milton Keynes College
Nescot College
New College Durham
Northbrook College
Reed Learning
Runshaw College
Strode College
Sussex Downs College
Tamworth and Lichfield College
Wigan and Leigh College

Current Providers of Resettlement Services to Prisoners

Business in Prisons
Lincolnshire Action Trust
Edexcel
Open University
Worc. County Council
Ormiston Trust
VSC
Careers Enterprise Ltd.
Shaw Trust
Citizens Advice Bureau
Shelter
Foundation Training Co. Ltd
Prof. William Marshall
BICS Workshop
Preparation for Work
YMCA
De Paul Trust
St. Mungo's
NACRO
Beacon Support Ltd.
Jim Heaven
St. Giles Trust
Braunstone Community Association
Radio Feltham
Revolving Doors
Enterprise Regeneration Partnership
The Princes Trust
SOVA
Connexions
New Bridge Foundation
T3 Associates
Gamble Rail Training
Robert J McGrath
Apex Trust
Group 4 Falck Global
Working Links
Hibiscus
CSL at Achiles
OCDA
Technics
London Borough of Hounslow Youth
Spurgeons Child Care

Building Services Ltd
Inside Out Trust
Working Links

Current Providers of Drugs Services to Prisoners

County Durham and Darlington Primary Services
CRI
Lifeline Project Ltd
The Seagrove Trust
Inclusion
Phoenix House
ADAPT
Addaction
Shropshire SMS
Avon and Wiltshire Partnership
EDP
WGCADA
RAPT
In-Volve

Current Providers of Training to HMPS Staff

Woodland Grange
Office of Public Management
Harrop Associates
PL
Characters
University of Cambridge
Centre for High Performance Development
HB International
ITAC
Cannock Chase Technical College
Leadership Research and Development Ltd
Reed Training
Passe Partout
Highfield Co. Ltd
Joshua Group
TSO Consulting Ltd
Cannock Chase Technical College
Bray Leino
ROSPA
NICEIC Group Ltd
TDP Development Ltd
St. John's Ambulance
Forum UK
JTL Training
Creative Forum

Sentencing

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many indefinite sentences of public protection have had a minimum term of *(a)* 12 months or less, *(b)* two years or less, *(c)* five years or less and *(d)* 10 years or less. [135848]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Information on prisoners received into prisons in England and Wales under Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection (IPP) between April 2005 and March 2006, by length of tariff (minimum term), can be found in the following table. It is also available as Table 11.2 in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

IPP Tariffs by characteristic of prisoner[1], England and Wales

	Number of IPPs by length of tariff (months)								*Quartiles of length of tariff (months)*		
	1-18	*19-36*	*37-48*	*49-60*	*61-120*	*121 +*	*Not recorded*	*Total*	*Lower quartile*	*Median*	*Upper quartile*
Total	147	326	107	46	53	4	24	706	21	30	42
Female	9	15	0	2	0	0	0	26	17	24	32
Male	138	311	107	44	53	4	24	680	21	30	42
Total	22%	48%	16%	7%	8%	1%	0%	100%	0	0	0
Female	35%	58%	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0	0	0
Male	21%	47%	16%	7%	8%	1%	0%	100%	0	0	0
All ethnic groups	147	326	107	46	53	4	24	707	21	30	42
White	120	290	74	34	40	3	18	539	20	30	42
Mixed	3	10	4	0	0	0	0	17	20	27	17
Asian or Asian British	1	12	7	3	2	0	0	25	31	36	45
Black or Black British	11	36	15	7	9	0	6	84	24	31	48
Chinese or Other	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Not Stated	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Unrecorded	11	17	7	2	1	1	0	39	0	0	0
All ethnic groups	22%	48%	16%	7%	8%	1%	0%	100%	0	0	0

IPP Tariffs by characteristic of prisoner[1]: England and Wales

	Number of IPPs by length of tariff (months)								*Quartiles of length of tariff (months)*		
	1-18	*19-36*	*37-48*	*49-60*	*61-120*	*121 +*	*Not recorded*	*Total*	*Lower quartile*	*Median*	*Upper quartile*
White	23%	48%	14%	7%	8%	1%	0%	100%	0	0	0
Mixed	18%	59%	24%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0	0	0
Asian or Asian British	4%	48%	28%	12%	8%	0%	0%	100%	0	0	0
Black or Black British	14%	46%	19%	9%	12%	0%	0%	100%	0	0	0
Chinese or Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0
Not Stated	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0
Unrecorded	28%	44%	18%	5%	3%	3%	0%	100%	0	0	0
All ages	147	326	107	46	53	4	24	707	21	30	42
15-17	4	14	2	0	0	0	1	21	21	24	30
18-20	31	64	11	4	6	1	1	118	18	24	36
21-24	33	60	16	9	8	1	6	133	18	28	39
25-29	19	57	25	12	10	0	4	127	24	32	48
30-39	34	84	34	11	16	1	7	187	24	32	44
40-49	15	34	14	6	9	1	4	83	21	36	48
50-59	8	8	3	3	4	0	1	27	17	27	56
60+	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Not recorded	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
All ages	22%	48%	16%	7%	8%	1%	0%	100%	0	0	0
15-17	20%	70%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0	0	0
18-20	26%	55%	9%	3%	5%	1%	0%	100%	0	0	0
21-24	26%	47%	13%	7%	6%	1%	0%	100%	0	0	0
25-29	15%	46%	20%	10%	8%	0%	0%	100%	0	0	0
30-39	19%	47%	19%	6%	9%	1%	0%	100%	0	0	0
40-49	19%	43%	18%	8%	11%	1%	0%	100%	0	0	0
50-59	31%	31%	12%	12%	15%	0%	0%	100%	0	0	0
60+	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0	0
Not recorded	33%	0%	33%	33%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0	0	0

[1] IPP information up to w/c 27 March 2006.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figures may not be accurate to that level.

Sri Lanka

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received from the Government of Sri Lanka; and what discussions have taken place following such representations. [135958]

Mr. McNulty: Any recent representations made by the Government of Sri Lanka would have been made on a confidential basis, and it is the Government's policy to respect that confidentiality.

Tamils

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received from Tamil community groups in the United Kingdom; and what discussions have taken place following such representations. [135957]

Mr. McNulty: Recent representations have been made by members of the British Tamil Forum, who wished to discuss the continued proscription of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and put the case that it would be in the interests of peace in Sri Lanka if that proscription was lifted. The Terrorism Act 2000 sets out the process by which a proscribed organisation or a person affected by such a proscription can apply for deproscription, and the Home Secretary outlined the process for them.

Until such time that an organisation is removed from the proscribed list, it is the position of the Government that the organisation remains concerned in terrorism. We would urge all parties involved in the conflict in Sri Lanka to renounce the use of violence as a means to resolve political differences.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bedfordshire County Council: Pensions

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central Government funding Bedfordshire County Council received in each year since 1997 towards its pension fund. [133371]

Mr. Woolas: Apart from a proportion of the indexed sum of £130 million added to the financial settlement for local government since 1998 to mitigate the effect on their pension funds of the abolition of tax relief on dividend income, Bedfordshire county council receives no central Government funding directly for this purpose. The Local Government Pension Scheme is a funded, statutory scheme, with employer, employee and investment income being the main sources of income. Data for the scheme are found on the Department's website at:

www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/stats/pensions.htm

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in her Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136090]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government and its agencies issue instructions to their staff to shut down computers and other office equipment at night. Staff in HQ buildings are also encouraged to switch off their monitors during the day when they are away from their desks for more than five minutes. These messages are consolidated by posters in working areas and in photocopier rooms. Surveys are regularly conducted to monitor if these instructions are followed.

Depending on their configuration PCs used by the Department are set up so that the monitor and/or hard disk go into standby, or power down, after a predetermined period of inactivity.

Some networking equipment needs to run continuously and is shut down only for maintenance.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to take account of the move to low carbon grid electricity in *(a)* the building regulations, *(b)* the code for sustainable homes and *(c)* specifications for electric heating systems. [136292]

Angela E. Smith: Building regulations and the code for sustainable homes set overall energy performance standards expressed in terms of annual carbon emissions. The emission factors for grid electricity used to establish compliance with these standards will be kept under review.

The energy performance standards are non-prescriptive and electric heating can be used provided the overall standards are met.

Local Government Finance

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of how much local authority spending was *(a)* ring-fenced, *(b)* for statutory purposes and *(c)* discretionary in each year since 1997. [123154]

Mr. Woolas: The following table sets out the amount of local authority spending which was funded by ring-fenced grants as recorded in the revenue outturn returns which local authorities send to the Department:

	£ billion
1997-98	1.6
1998-99	2.1
1999-2000	2.7
2000-01	3.9
2001-02	5.2
2002-03	6.4
2003-04	8.3
2004-05	7.8
2005-06	7.2

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn returns.

The table sets out those ring-fenced grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services). The figures exclude grants outside AEF such as housing benefit subsidy, capital grants, funding for local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the 2007 Budget that we will set out a clear target to reduce specific grants and ring-fenced funding.

It is for individual local authorities to determine how much of their spending is required to fulfil their statutory duties and how much is available for discretionary purposes. The Department does not compile information on local authority expenditure in a way which separates out spending on statutory and discretionary purposes.

Local Government: Equal Pay

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure that local authorities have equal pay policies for male and female staff. [130716]

Mr. Woolas: It is for individual local authorities, as employers, to determine pay policies for their staff, subject to the relevant statutory requirements.

Local authorities set their own pay policies and most place staff on a pay scale which is negotiated at a national level between the unions and local government.

Like any other employer, local authorities are subject to the provisions of the Equal Pay Act 1970 and the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

In setting their pay policies, local authorities must also comply with the Gender Duty, which places a statutory obligation on all public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful sex discrimination and harassment and to promote equality of opportunity between women and men in carrying out their functions.

Members: Correspondence

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Eccles of 26 January 2007 on home inspection arrangements, correspondence reference 2151. [137324]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to my hon. Friend's correspondence.

Roads: Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was provided by central Government for the Shields Road regeneration programme in East Newcastle; and whether any payment was made into the redevelopment programme from the planning gain on the land used for the supermarket development at the west end of Shields Road. [135657]

Mr. Woolas: The Shields Road regeneration programme has received £25 million from the Single Regeneration Budget round 2, and ongoing development support of £147,000 from Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

The Secretary of State holds no information about any planning gain arising from the new supermarket in Shields Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. Any such contributions would normally have been an arrangement between Newcastle upon Tyne city council, as local planning authority, and the supermarket developer. The city council would have been required to place a copy of any agreement of this kind on the public planning register, alongside the decision on the application.

Supporting People Programme

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with her colleagues in HM Treasury on the next three-year spending settlement for the supporting people programme. [136533]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has had and will continue to have wide ranging and regular discussions with the Chancellor and the Chief Secretary about preparations for the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the measures introduced to deliver greater efficiency savings in the supporting people budget. [136534]

Mr. Woolas: Councils assess the efficiency gains they have achieved by service sector, including supporting people, which they report to the Department through their annual efficiency statements.

Valuation Office

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Communications Action Plan produced by the Valuation Office Agency for the 2005 non-domestic rates revaluation. [128546]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the VOA website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

I have placed in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Communications Plan relating to the 2005 revaluation for non-domestic rates.

Wiltshire County Council: Pensions

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the current pension fund deficit is of *(a)* Wiltshire county council and *(b)* Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. [136608]

Mr. Woolas: Wiltshire county council is the responsible local government pension scheme administering authority for its pension fund and for complying with the solvency requirements of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997. Information on its current funding is not held centrally.

Pensions for operational firefighters employed by the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service are provided on a pay-as-you-go basis and, as such, no actual pension fund arrangement exists.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many alcohol-related deaths there were in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* England and *(d)* the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [136777]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 May 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many alcohol-related deaths there were in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* England and *(d)* the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. (136777)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, *(b)* Essex county, *(c)* England and *(d)* the United Kingdom from 1997 to 2005 (the latest year available).

So that comparison over time is for consistent areas, deaths in Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock unitary authorities, which were part of the former County of Essex, have not been included in the figures for Essex for any year.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, Essex county, England and the United Kingdom[2], 1997 to 2005[3]

Deaths (persons)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Southend-on-Sea	16	16	12	18	19	19	25	24	19
Essex	83	96	89	95	104	95	107	109	115
England	4,437	4,762	4,935	5,044	5,476	5,582	5,981	6,036	6,191
United Kingdom	5,976	6,369	6,721	6,884	7,499	7,701	8,164	8,221	8,386

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following boxes.
[2] Based on local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death— International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	ICD-9 code(s)
Alcoholic psychoses	291
Alcohol dependence syndrome	303
Non-dependent abuse of alcohol	305.0
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	425.5
Alcoholic fatty liver	571.0
Acute alcoholic hepatitis	571.1
Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	571.2
Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified	571.3
Chronic hepatitis	571.4
Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol	571.5
Other chronic non-alcoholic liver disease	571.8
Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol	571.9
Accidental poisoning by alcohol	E860

Box 2: Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Departments: Secondment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 626W, on Departments: secondment, what policy areas the secondee from Sunderland Teaching primary care trust covered within the Treasury's health team during his time at the Treasury. [136321]

Mr. Timms: HM Treasury does not comment on the work programmes of individual members of staff.

Inheritance Tax

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice he received from *(a)* Treasury officials and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs officials before his decision to change the inheritance tax treatment of (i) accumulation and maintenance trusts and (ii) interest in possession trusts in the Finance Act 2006. [136349]

Ed Balls: This Government, as with previous administrations, does not release advice to Ministers as to do so would prejudice candid and frank discussion.

Members: Correspondence

Graham Stringer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Manchester, Blackley of 7th February and 13th March. [136955]

John Healey: I have replied to my hon. Friend.

Personal Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the median equivalised *(a)* net and *(b)* gross household income was for households where the household reference person was aged (i) 16 to 20, (ii) 21 to 25, (iii) 25 to 30, (iv) 30 to 40, (v) 40 to 50, (vi) 50 to 60, (vii) 60 to 65, (viii) 65 to 75, (ix) 75 to 85 and (x) over 85 in (A) 1997, (B) 2004-05 and (C) in the last period for which figures are available. [133833]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The available information is in the following tables.

The age-bands requested are not mutually exclusive so they have been adjusted slightly in order to make them so.

Table 1: Median equivalised net household income (£ per week) by age-band of household reference person.

Age-band of household reference person	1996-97	2004-05
16 to 20	242	325
21 to 25	266	367

Table 1: Median equivalised net household income (£ per week) by age-band of household reference person.

Age-band of household reference person	*1996-97*	*2004-05*
26 to 30	261	362
31 to 40	258	351
41 to 50	294	376
51 to 60	301	400
61 to 65	239	327
66 to 75	210	291
76 to 85	184	272
over 85	188	272

Table 2: Median equivalised gross household income (£ per week): by age-band of household reference person.

Age-band of household reference person	*1996-97*	*2004-05*
16 to 20	277	389
21 to 25	319	471
26 to 30	320	473
31 to 40	322	463
41 to 50	376	511
51 to 60	377	540
61 to 65	270	396
66 to 75	222	328
76 to 85	189	301
over 85	194	303

Notes:
1. The information is based on OECD equalisation factors and therefore it will not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClement's equivalisation factors.
2. The per week values are in the prices for that particular year.
Source:
Family Resources Survey

Taxation: Diplomatic Missions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which diplomatic missions to the United Kingdom remit income tax, or monies in lieu of income tax, to the Inland Revenue or Exchequer in respect of locally engaged staff who are *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* other nationals who are (i) EU citizens and (ii) non-EU citizens; and if he will make a statement. [136113]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 10 May 2007]:* Some diplomatic missions voluntarily operate the "Pay As You Earn" scheme on the salaries of their locally engaged staff. The operation of the UK's Double Taxation Agreements and UK domestic law dealing with official agents of foreign governments may exempt certain staff who are not nationals of the UK. Details of the missions which operate PAYE cannot be disclosed for reasons of taxpayer confidentiality.

Tax Credits

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much HM Revenue and Customs spent in 2006-07 on advertising aimed at increasing the take-up rate of tax credits; [133747]

(2) what plans he has to improve the take-up rate of tax credits. [133748]

Mr. Timms: Around six million families and nearly 10 million children are currently benefiting from tax credits. Take-up is higher than any previous system of income-related financial support for in-work families.

In 2006-07, HM Revenue and Customs spent £5.37 million[1] on advertising and marketing for tax credits to ensure that claimants understood the system and encourage all eligible families to claim. This included £250,000[1] specifically aimed at targeting new mothers, ethnic minority communities and those eligible for working tax credit. HMRC will continue to run advertising and marketing, targeting new mothers and ethnic minority communities.

The Government are committed to increasing take-up among people entitled to working tax credit only. It has run a pilot exercise in some areas to test ways of improving take-up of working tax credit among people without children; and following this, also plans to run regional marketing activity to encourage take-up of working tax credit. HMRC will do more to encourage new claims from this group, drawing on the lessons from these pilots on the most effective approaches.

Regular national advertising on Renewals and Changes in Circumstance also serve to maintain general awareness of tax credits.

[1] Quoted figures cover media spend, excluding VAT.

VAT: National Lottery Projects

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the VAT treatment of *(a)* the Cricklands County Way and *(b)* other Big Lottery Living Landmarks projects. [136786]

John Healey: The general position is that the receipt of lottery grants will normally be outside the scope of VAT as they are generally not payment for any supplies.

Purchases made using grant income will be subject to the normal rules of VAT. VAT incurred on purchases made with grant income can be recovered through the VAT system to the extent that it relates to the grantee's taxable business activities. VAT cannot usually be recovered on purchases related to an organisation's exempt supplies or non-business activities. Applicants for lottery funding should always consider irrecoverable VAT when making their bids.

Section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 does not permit HM Revenue and Customs to disclose information relating to the tax affairs of individual taxpayers.

VAT: Voluntary Aided Schools

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the policy which determines that voluntary-aided schools subject to charitable status are required to pay 17.5 per cent. VAT on new school buildings. [136276]

John Healey: VAT is not chargeable on the construction of new school buildings for voluntary aided schools with charitable status, provided that these buildings will be used at least 90 per cent. for a relevant charitable purpose, such as free education.

EU agreements governing the application of reliefs from VAT mean that while we can retain the VAT zero rate for the construction of charity buildings as it currently stands, we cannot extend its scope, or introduce any new VAT zero rates.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will bring forward legislation to require a woman considering an abortion to see an ultrasound of her unborn child beforehand; what recent representations she has received on the issue; and if she will make a statement. [132652]

Caroline Flint: It is accepted parliamentary practice that proposals for changes in the law on abortion have come from Back-Bench Members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes. The Government have no plans to change the law on abortion.

The guideline "The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion" issued by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (2004) recommends that when ultrasound scanning is undertaken, it should be done in a setting and manner sensitive to the woman's situation. For most abortions, when scanning is undertaken, the screen is turned away and the vast majority of women do not request to see the image.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill; how many such representations *(a)* supported and *(b)* opposed the Bill; and if she will make a statement. [132653]

Caroline Flint: We contacted a range of Government Departments and stakeholders to get the best possible understanding of the implications of the Termination of Pregnancy Bill to draw up a Regulatory Impact Assessment. We did not specifically ask these organisations (or individuals representing them) whether they supported or opposed the proposed legislation. The consultation was solely to obtain views on the outcomes that were considered most likely to occur in the event of introducing the legislation proposed in the Bill.

A list of those consulted (through written feedback and/or through personal interviews) is as follows:

Government Departments

Department of Health
Department for Education and Skills
Department for Constitutional Affairs
Department for Work and Pensions
Scottish Executive
Office for National Statistics

Professional bodies and other stakeholders

British Medical Association
Nursing and Midwifery Council
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Royal College of Nursing
Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV
British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
Confidential Enquiry into maternal and Child Health
British Pregnancy Advisory Service
Brook
Family Planning Association
Fraterdrive Limited
LIFE
Marie Stopes International
Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child
University of Southampton
Information Services Division, NHS National Services Scotland

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish the annual abortion statistics 2006; and if she will make a statement. [134459]

Caroline Flint: The annual 2006 abortion statistics will be published by the Department in June 2007. Provisional abortion data for January to September 2006 are available in the Office for National Statistics publication Health Statistics Quarterly 33, copies of which are available in the Library.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with West Midlands Perinatal Institute on its recent study of the abortion of foetuses on grounds of disability; and if she will make a statement. [135710]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not had any discussions with West Midlands Perinatal Institute on its recent study on abortions for foetal abnormality.

We are aware that some babies are born showing signs of life following an abortion for foetal abnormality. The management of these cases rests with the clinical team involved, taking into account all the relevant factors and circumstances. The British Medical Association, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and the British Association of Perinatal Medicine have issued guidance to clinicians on this sensitive issue.

While there continues to be medical advances in caring for premature babies, it is very rare for babies born at 22 weeks gestation or under to survive. The RCOG recommends that for all terminations at gestational age of more than 21 weeks and six days, the method chosen should ensure that the foetus is born dead.

The guidance goes on to say that where the patient chooses not to have feticide in the presence of a lethal abnormality, discussion must take place within the appropriate team, and the patient's wishes and agreement sought on the management of the foetus after birth.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department issues to primary care trusts and strategic health authorities on the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum catchment population for each accident and emergency department when planning the reconfiguration of services. [137076]

Andy Burnham: It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that there is appropriate provision of urgent and emergency services that are responsive to people's needs.

Alcoholic Drinks: Consumption

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who drink more than the recommended weekly amounts of alcohol; and what assessment she has made of trends in alcohol consumption since 1992. [131918]

Caroline Flint: In 2005, 24 per cent. of men and 13 per cent. of women drank more than 21 units and 14 units respectively each week.

The table show average weekly alcohol consumption between 1992 and 2005. During the 1990s and up to 2001, the data show an increase in average weekly consumption; the figure for 2005 shows a reduction.

It is important to note that as a result of an inter-departmental review (Sensible Drinking; Department of Health 1995) Government advice on sensible drinking was changed from a weekly to a daily benchmark. This was to recognise the dangers of excessive drinking in a single session. Data on maximum daily amount drunk last week have only been collected by the General Household Survey from 1998 onwards and therefore trend information back to 1992 is not available on that measure.

Persons aged 16 and over, average weekly alcohol consumption by units

	Unweighted				*Weighted*						
	1992	*1994*	*1996*	*1998*	*1998*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2005*	*Weighted base 2005 (000's) = 100 per cent.*	*Unweighted sample 2005*
Total	10.2	10.0	10.7	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.1	12.1	10.8	41,744	19,956

Note:
In 2000, the decision was made to weight the data to compensate for under-representation of people in some groups. This table shows weighted and unweighted data for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of weighting. Caution should be exercised when comparing weighted and unweighted data.
Source:
General Household Survey 2005, Smoking and Drinking Among Adults; Office for National Statistics

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the 2004 Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy since the introduction of extended licensing hours. [136776]

Caroline Flint: The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005 and introduced a number of measures including removing the fixed closing hours which contributed to large concentrations of customers, provoking disorder and nuisance. Evaluation of the Act formed part of the Government's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, which is currently being reviewed. We will be publishing a renewed strategy shortly.

Ambulance Services: West Midlands

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanism and to what extent public opinion has been taken into account in the review of ambulance control rooms by the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust. [135184]

Andy Burnham: Section 242 of the National Health Service Act 2006 requires NHS organisations, including ambulance trusts, to involve and consult patients and the public in the planning of services, in developments of proposals for changes in services, and in decisions affecting the operation of services. In addition, the Department issued policy and practice guidance to the NHS in respect of this matter in 2003 and we would expect this to be adhered to.

It is for the NHS locally to determine whether or not a particular issue constitutes a service change. NHS West Midlands reports that the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust has decided to undertake a public consultation in relation to its review of control rooms. However, the details of this consultation have yet to be determined.

Antibiotics

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of courses of antibiotics that were prescribed in England in each of the last 30 years. [129883]

Caroline Flint: Data held by the Department only readily identify antibiotic prescription items dispensed in the community, more than one of which could constitute a course of treatment. A full 30 years of community prescribing data are not available, only from 1980 onwards:

Prescription items dispensed in the community in England

	Million
1980	32.8
1981	31.3
1982	34.7
1983	34.0
1984	34.7
1985	37.9
1986	37.0
1987	37.9
1988	39.8
1989	39.4
1990	39.7
1991	43.7
1992	43.4
1993	47.7
1994	45.8
1995	49.4
1996	46.6
1997	46.4

Prescription items dispensed in the community in England

	Million
1998	42.6
1999	38.6
2000	36.9
2001	37.9
2002	37.0
2003	37.6
2004	36.5
2005	37.2

Note:
Data from 1980 to 1990 are only partial and not consistent with data from 1991 onwards. Figures up to 1990 are based on fees and a sample of one in 200 prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors. Figures for 1991 onwards are based on items and cover all prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors dispensing doctors and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered.

Avian Influenza

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 805W, on avian influenza, what information her Department holds on the percentage fatality rates for the pandemic influenza outbreaks of *(a)* 1918-19 (H1N1), *(b)* 1957 (N2N2) and *(c)* 1968 (H3N2). [134474]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 10 May 2007]:* Contemporary Ministry of Health estimates of deaths were as detailed in the table. These should be taken as indicative only. In particular, it is difficult to establish case fatality rates with certainty as many cases of influenza would not have been recorded.

	Deaths (England and Wales)	*Mortality rate (rounded) (percentage)*	*Case fatality rate (rounded estimate) (percentage)*
1918-19	200,000	0.5	2
1957	30,000	0.06	0.2
1968-69	80,000	0.15	0.4

Blood

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much her Department spent on BPL Elstree in *(a)* 1977, *(b)* 1978 and *(c)* 1979; and if she will make a statement; [134900]

(2) how much her Department spent on the Lister Institute's *(a)* Chelsea and *(b)* Elstree laboratories in (i) 1980, (ii) 1981, (iii) 1982, (iv) 1983 and (v) 1984; and if she will make a statement; [134904]

(3) how much her Department spent on the Lister Institute's *(a)* Chelsea and *(b)* Elstree laboratories in each year since 1977; and if she will make a statement. [135278]

Caroline Flint: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much her Department spent on the production of blood products in the UK for use by haemophiliacs in *(a)* 1977, *(b)* 1978 and *(c)* 1979; and if she will make a statement; [134901]

(2) how much her Department spent on the production of blood products in the UK for use by haemophiliacs in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1981, *(c)* 1982, *(d)* 1983 and *(e)* 1984; and if she will make a statement; [134912]

(3) how much her Department spent on increasing blood donations at regional transfusion centres in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1986, *(c)* 1987, *(d)* 1988 and *(e)* 1989; and if she will make a statement; [134905]

(4) how much her Department spent on increasing blood donations at regional transfusion centres in *(a)* 1977, *(b)* 1978 and *(c)* 1979; and if she will make a statement. [135279]

Caroline Flint: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost However, in 1975 up to £500,000 (about half of which would be recurring) was allocated to Regional Transfusion Centres to increase plasma supplies to Blood Products Laboratory. This funding was allocated to enable the United Kingdom to achieve self sufficiency in blood products. Further information is available in the report "Self Sufficient in Blood Products in England and Wales" which is available in the Library. The supporting references to the report are in the public domain.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much her Department spent on imported blood products from the US in *(a)* 1977, *(b)* 1978 and *(c)* 1979; and if she will make a statement; [134902]

(2) what volume of factor VIII blood product was imported from the US into the UK in *(a)* 1977, *(b)* 1978 and *(c)* 1979; and if she will make a statement; [134903]

(3) what volume of UK-sourced blood was fractionated to develop blood products for use by haemophiliacs in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1981, *(c)* 1982, *(d)* 1983 and *(e)* 1984; and if she will make a statement; [134907]

(4) what volume of cryoprecipitate was available for use in the NHS in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1981, *(c)* 1982, *(d)* 1983 and *(e)* 1984; and if she will make a statement; [134908]

(5) how much and what proportion of blood products given to haemophiliacs in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1986, *(c)* 1987, *(d)* 1988 and *(e)* 1989 was sourced from the US; and if she will make a statement; [134909]

(6) how much and what proportion of blood products given to haemophiliacs in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1981, *(c)* 1982, *(d)* 1983 and *(e)* 1984 was sourced from UK donors; and if she will make a statement; [134910]

(7) how much her Department spent on imported blood products from the US in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1986, *(c)* 1987, *(d)* 1988 and *(e)* 1989; and if she will make a statement; [134911]

(8) what volume of factor VIII blood product was imported from the US into the UK in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1986, *(c)* 1987, *(d)* 1988 and *(e)* 1989; and if she will make a statement; [135267]

(9) what volume and proportion of blood products given to haemophiliacs in *(a)* 1977, *(b)* 1978 and *(c)*

1979 were sourced from USA donors; and if she will make a statement. [135277]

Caroline Flint: During the 1970s and 1980s the Department did not purchase imported blood products. At the time, Blood Products Laboratory (BPL) made plasma products from plasma collected from British blood donors. From 1999 BPL has obtained plasma from the United States as a precautionary measure against vCJD transmission by United Kingdom plasma. All US plasma collection centres are highly regulated and conform to a strict code of practice.

Clinicians have been able to directly procure blood products from other sources and data on their use is not collected centrally. However, the report "Self Sufficiency in Blood Products in England and Wales" contains information on the annual consumption of factor VIII in the UK (table two) for the years 1969-1987. In addition, further information on the consumption of both the BPL and commercial blood products is contained in two articles "Treatment of Haemophilia in the United Kingdom 1981-1996", by Rizza CR et al Haemophilia (2001) 7, 349-359; and "Treatment of haemophilia in related disorders in Britain and Northern Ireland during 1976-80", by Rizza CR et al British Medical Journal (286) 1983. Copies of these articles have been placed in the Library.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's policy is on self sufficiency in blood products; and if she will make a statement. [136644]

Caroline Flint: We are not self sufficient in plasma products. Bio Products Laboratory (BPL) produces a range of plasma products for the national health service and customers abroad. BPL operates in a competitive market, and the NHS has always been able to source plasma products from a range of suppliers. Recombinant clotting products are now available for the treatment of haemophilia patients.

BPL originally made plasma products from plasma collected from British blood donors. From 1999 BPL has obtained plasma from the United States as a precautionary measure against variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease transmission by United Kingdom plasma. All US plasma collection centres are highly regulated and conform to a strict code of practice.

Blood: Contamination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) many patients were given blood contaminated with *(a)* HIV and *(b)* hepatitis C while being treated by the NHS in each year since 1997; [135032]

(2) what steps are being taken by her Department to prevent contaminated blood reaching patients in the NHS. [135033]

Caroline Flint: The National Blood Service (NBS) is aware of one case of HIV transmission to a blood recipient since 1997. There have been no documented cases of transmission of hepatitis C through blood collected by the NBS since 1997.

All blood provided for blood transfusion is screened for evidence of infection with HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, human T cell lymphotropic virus and Syphilis before being released for issue to hospitals. In addition, the NBS has put in place a number of precautionary measures against the risk vCJD, such as excluding people who have received blood transfusion from donating blood.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests her Department has received for original copies of legal waivers signed by haemophiliacs undertaking not to take legal action against the Department or any other public body in respect of infection with HIV or hepatitis viruses as a result of infected blood products; how many such documents the Department has provided following those requests; and if she will make a statement. [132464]

Caroline Flint: In the period April 2006 to March 2007 the Department received three requests for copies of waivers signed by haemophiliacs infected with HIV through blood products. The Department has been unable to satisfy these requests. There is no requirement for such waivers in relation to infection with hepatitis.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many haemophiliacs infected with HIV or hepatitis C or both via contaminated blood products received compensation from out of court settlements in *(a)* 1989 and *(b)* 1991; and if she will make a statement. [132465]

Caroline Flint: This information is not available in the form requested. Most of the registrants of the Macfarlane Trust are haemophiliacs infected with HIV. There is also a smaller number of their infected intimates, and some female carriers who were infected with Von Willebrands disease.

On 31 March 1989 there were 700 registrants of the Trust and on 31 March 1991 there were 970 registrants.

There were no out of court settlements for the period concerned in relation to infection with hepatitis C.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many legal waivers were recorded by her Department as being signed by haemophiliacs undertaking not to take legal action against the Department or any other public body in respect of infection with HIV or hepatitis viruses as a result of the use of infected blood products; how many original copies of such documents the Department holds; and if she will make a statement. [132479]

Caroline Flint: All new registrants of the Macfarlane Trust are routinely required to sign a Deed of Undertaking at the time of their registration, which indemnifies the Government against any further litigation.

The Department currently hold 90 original waivers. A number of signed waivers, going back to 1989, were inadvertently destroyed with the files in which they were held. There is no requirement for such waivers in relation to infection with hepatitis.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance her Department *(a)* has given and *(b)* expects to give to the independent public inquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS blood to haemophilia patients. [135885]

Caroline Flint: Officials met with members of the inquiry team on 25 April 2007 to discuss what information the Department may be able to provide to the inquiry. It was agreed that officials would provide a copy of a report, "Review of Documentation Relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970-1985", which is due to be issued shortly and will be placed in the Library. Officials also agreed to provide some additional information regarding the chronology of certain events.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the overall cost to the public purse of providing ex gratia payments to the relatives of those who died before 2003 as a result of infection with blood products contaminated with hepatitis C. [135916]

Caroline Flint: The Skipton Fund was established in 2004, to administer the ex-gratia payment scheme for people infected with hepatitis C following national health service treatment with blood or blood products. It has no commitment to make payments to the relatives of those infected.

Campylobacter

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of *Campylobacter* tests. [133232]

Caroline Flint: The *Campylobacter* detection methods used by official food testing laboratories are to either national or international standards. *Campylobacter* detection methods used by the Food Standards Agency's contractors in its surveys are also to national or international standards. These methods are fit for purpose to compare against requirements of food regulations and guidelines.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports she has received on identifications of *(a)* Helicobacter pullorum and *(b)* other unusual Campylobacter-like isolates from poultry products. [134239]

Caroline Flint: There have been no reports received on identifications of unusual Campylobacter like isolates or Helicobacter pullorum from poultry products in the United Kingdom.

Casualty Plus

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds from *(a)* her Department's central budget and *(b)* the NHS were provided to Casualty Plus Ltd. in the last two years; and what the (i) date and (ii) purpose was of each payment. [120385]

Andy Burnham: The Department has not made any payments to Casualty Plus Ltd in the last two years. Information on payments made by the national health service is not held centrally.

Childbirth: Research

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the funding figure of £3.7 million allocated in the past year for medical research into preventing premature birth was decided; [132220]

(2) what factors will be taken into account in determining the level of future funding for medical research into preventing premature birth. [132837]

Caroline Flint: The estimate of expenditure on research into premature birth is the total cost in 2004-05 of relevant national research programme activity funded by the Department and the Medical Research Council (MRC) projects. It does not include expenditure from the research and development allocations made in that year to research active organisations in the national health service. That information is not held centrally.

Neither the Department nor the MRC ring fence funds for expenditure on particular topic areas. Both organisations welcome applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition. Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" is introducing significant new funding opportunities through expansion in the number and size of our national research programmes.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from Action Medical Research on concerns regarding the funding of medical research on premature birth; and what steps she is taking to address those concerns. [132492]

Caroline Flint: The chief executive of Action Medical Research wrote to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 21 December 2006 enclosing a petition calling for an increase in the public funding of research into premature birth. My noble Friend the Minister of State, Lord Hunt, replied on 29 January 2007.

Chlamydia Infection: Screening

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the long-term impact on *(a)* health and *(b)* fertility of not reaching the target for the number of young people to be screened for chlamydia in 2006-07; [130757]

(2) what estimate she made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* future cost to the NHS of fertility treatment made necessary by the consequences of chlamydia infection. [130752]

Caroline Flint: The Chief Medical Officer's (CMO's) expert Advisory Group on "chlamydia trachomatis" was set up in November 1996 to advise on the issues associated with screening for genital chlamydial

infection. Its report, published in 1998, concluded that screening and effective management of chlamydial infection would result in considerable health benefit. The annual cost of chlamydia and its consequences in the United Kingdom is estimated to be more than £100 million. We are not aware of any updates on this estimate.

As a result of the findings in this report a phased multi-faceted opportunistic strategy began in England in April 2003. Mathematical modelling has since confirmed the effectiveness of this approach. Other countries which introduced screening activities before England have seen reductions in both the prevalence of chlamydia and its complications (pelvic infection rates and ectopic pregnancies) highlighting the huge potential of the national chlamydia screening programme on the sexual health of young people.

No target has been set for chlamydia screening in 2006-07. For the first time a local delivery plan target has been introduced for 2007-08. Strategic health authorities have submitted plans to screen at least 15 per cent. of their population aged 15-24 by March 2008.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Medical Treatments

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the likely effects of implementation of the draft guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the effective treatment of myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome; and what representations she has received on the draft guidance. [129469]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently working to produce clinical guidance on chronic fatigue syndrome/ myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME). It is expected that this guidance will be published in August 2007. It would be inappropriate to make an assessment on the effect of implementation until the guidance is finalised.

The Department frequently receives representations from individuals and groups with an interest in CFS/ME. As the Department is not responsible for the content of the clinical guidance, correspondents mentioning the guidance are made aware of the consultation process organised by NICE.

Contraceptives: Young People

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there is a legal requirement on pharmacists to sell emergency hormonal contraception on request to patients under the age of 16 years on request; and if she will make a statement. [135708]

Caroline Flint: There is no legal requirement on pharmacists to sell emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) to women under 16 years of age. It is only licensed as a pharmacy medicine for women aged 16 and over.

However, women under 16 can obtain EHC through a prescription written by a qualified prescriber. It can also be supplied through a patient group direction to women under 16 years of age provided this is specified in a patient group direction, signed off by a senior doctor and pharmacist.

Cystic Fibrosis

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made with consideration of the application made to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on 29 January 2003 by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust for a clinical guideline for the care of cystic fibrosis. [128461]

Caroline Flint: The proposal by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust for a clinical guideline for the care of cystic fibrosis was considered as part of the topic selection process for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) 12th wave work programme. As a result of that consideration, Departmental Ministers, who make final decisions on the referral of clinical guideline topics to NICE, concluded that it was not appropriate to refer the topic to NICE at that time.

Dental Health: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of children under five with tooth decay in England in each year between 1997 and 2005. [136389]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The only comparative information available is from reports of the decennial Child Dental Health Surveys, which showed a decline in the percentage of children aged five with obvious dental decay from 43 per cent. in 1993 to 41 per cent. in 2003 England.

Dental Services

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were registered with an NHS dentist in (i) City of York council area, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iv) England in (A) April 2007 and (B) at the same date in each of the last 10 years. [135480]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Numbers of patients registered, by adult and child, in England, at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) level, as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in annex A of "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is based on the old contractual arrangements.

This report has been placed in the Library. The report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care, is also available online at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Information on patients registered as a proportion of the population is available in annex B of the above report. England information is available for 1997 to 2006. SHA and PCT information is only available for 2001 to 2006.

Under the new NHS dental contractual arrangements, patients no longer have to register with a practice to receive NHS dental services. Information is instead collected on the number of patients seen in the previous 24 months.

Numbers of patients seen, by adult and child, in the 24 months ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006, at SHA and PCT level, are available in section F1 of annex 3 of "NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3: 31 December 2006".

This report has been placed in the Library. The report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care, is also available online at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3-31-december-2006

Numbers of patients seen as a proportion of the population, by adult and child, in the 24 months ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 in England, by PCT and SHA, are available in section F2 of the above report.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists *(a)* started and *(b)* stopped taking new NHS clients in (i) rural and (ii) urban areas in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [135530]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of dentists who have started or stopped taking new national health service patients since 1997 is not available.

Information is held on the total numbers of dentists providing NHS primary dental care in each year since 1997. This is given in the following table. The dental reforms introduced in April 2006 enable primary care trusts for the first time to agree the annual levels of patient care that local dental practices will provide and to develop services to reflect local needs and priorities.

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): numbers of GDS and PDS dentists in England, as at 31 March each year

	Number
1997	16,470
1998	16,932
1999	17,475
2000	17,988
2001	18,353
2002	18,657
2003	18,801
2004	19,026
2005	19,797
2006	21,111

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care
NHS Business Services Authority

Dental Services: Yorkshire and Humberside

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentist surgeries in East Yorkshire Primary Care Trust area have accepted new *(a)* NHS fee paying patients and *(b)* children aged 0 to 18 years for NHS treatment since 1 September 2006. [135491]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on management consultancy services by her Department in each year since 1997-98. [131909]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Departmental expenditure on external consultancy services is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*£000*
1997-98	11,911
1998-99	6,179
1999-2000	8,726
2000-01	6,859
2001-02	7,056
2002-03	7,266
2003-04	10,036
2004-05	12,800
2005-06	[1]6,000
2006-07	[2]6,532

[1] The 2005-06 and 2006-07 spend is lower because the Department rectified some miscoding against the expenditure category codes to provide a more accurate figure of external consultancy spend.
[2] Spend up to end of February 2007.

Departments: Managed Service Companies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has made an estimate of the cost to *(a)* her Department and its executive agencies and *(b)* the NHS of the proposed changes in the Finance Bill 2007 for tackling the risk posed to the Exchequer of the operational practices of managed service companies. [135770]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 863W.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the size is of each of the contingency funds described in paragraph 4.13 of her Department's 2007-08 business plan, published on 30 March. [135869]

Andy Burnham: Details of the size of the contingency funds are shown in the table in chapter 4 of the Department's 2007-08 business plan. The contingency for administration budgets is £3.5 million, and for the Department's central programme budgets is £187.104 million.

Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what powers she has to tackle the marketing in the UK by post from the Channel Islands of illegal food supplements and herbal remedies; and what steps she plans to take; [131744]

(2) when officials from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency last met with representatives of the UK food supplements and herbal remedies sector to discuss the marketing of illegal products and unsubstantiated health claims from the Channel Islands; and whether further meetings are scheduled; [131788]

(3) what procedures are followed by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency in circumstances of complaints on the marketing of food supplements and herbal remedies from *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey; [131789]

(4) if she will meet representatives of the UK food supplements and herbal remedies sector to discuss the marketing of illegal products and the use of illegal health claims from the Channel Islands. [131790]

Caroline Flint: There are no specific powers in the Postal Services Act (2000) or in the medicines legislation administered by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), an Executive agency of the Department to control direct mail advertising from the Channel Islands. The legislation administered by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency does not apply to the Channel Islands. Advertisements issued from within the Islands would be the responsibility of the relevant authorities within those Islands.

The MHRA's medicines borderline section met representatives from relevant United Kingdom trade associations on 6 March 2007 for the quarterly code administrators meeting. Issues relating to the Channel Islands were discussed at that meeting. The next code administrators meeting is scheduled for 6 June 2007.

When looking at referrals the medicines borderline section firstly assesses it to see if there is any risk to public safety from the products. Cases where a risk is perceived are given a high priority. If a UK company or address is identified, action is taken to ensure compliance with legislation, this can be by way of dialogue or statutory process. If no UK company is involved any suspected illegal activity is referred to the relevant authority in the Channel Islands for investigation.

There are no plans for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, to meet with representatives of the UK food supplements and herbal remedies sector at this time.

Diphtheria: Vaccination

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the diphtheria-tetanus vaccine was routinely available between 1982 and 1984. [134872]

Caroline Flint: Diphtheria Tetanus vaccine was routinely available between 1982 and 1984.

Disease Control

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of EU Regulations 852/2004 and 853/2004 and the hazard analysis critical control point regime in preventing the spread of *(a)* avian influenza and *(b)* other diseases; and if she will make a statement. [132525]

Caroline Flint: I am advised by the Food Standards Agency that EU Regulation 852/2004 contains requirements which, if adhered to, contribute to reducing the risk of the spread of animal disease from food waste. The requirement to apply HACCP principles is designed to manage food safety hazards and is not an animal health control. The bulk of controls designed to reduce the spread of animal disease from animal waste and by-products is contained in EU Regulation 1774/2002 executed and enforced by the Animal By-Products Regulations 2005 and corresponding legislation in the devolved administrations.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the scope within Regulation 852/2004, Regulation 853/2004 and the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point regime for the use of the visual evidence given by inspectors to inform potential prosecutions for biosecurity lapses; and if she will make a statement. [132526]

Caroline Flint: I am advised by the Food Standards Agency that EU Regulation 852/2004 requires adequate provision to be made for the storage and disposal of food waste, non-edible by-products and other refuse and for refuse stores to be designed and managed in such a way as to enable them to be kept clean and where necessary free of animals and pests. Guidance issued by the Agency to enforcement officers requires them to check for compliance with the requirements of Regulation 852/2004 during their periodic inspections of food businesses. Where enforcement officers find evidence, including visual evidence, of non- compliance by a food business operator, the enforcement measures that they may take range from informal oral advice to prosecution in the case of serious or repeated breaches.

Doctors: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people visited the Medical Training Application Service website between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on *(a)* 23 April, *(b)* 24 April and *(c)* 25 April. [136004]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of people who have gained unauthorised access to the Medical Training Application Service website. [136005]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The Department has commissioned a report into the breach of security of Medical Training Application Service website, the findings of which we will publish. So far the security investigation has determined that 21 separate internet protocol (IP) addresses, mostly belonging to authorised Postgraduate Deaneries, accessed the Medical Training Application Service

website before the data were removed. Further analysis is ongoing to establish the extent of unauthorised access that took place.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken by her Department to ensure that those doctors whose details were available on the Medical Training Application Service website do not become victims of identity theft and fraud. [136006]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: The Department is still working to ascertain the identity of any unauthorised people who accessed the information. As soon as this is determined, the Department will take the appropriate steps to prevent identity theft and fraud.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to ensure that doctors' personal details which are available on the Medical Training Application Service website are no longer in the public domain through other websites or publications. [136008]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: All personal details were removed from the website by 5.15 pm on 25 April, the day of the security breach. The Department is taking steps to recover any information that might have been taken by those parties who gained unauthorised access.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department instructed the Medical Training Application Service contractor Methods to password protect personal details of foundation programme applicants made available to the postgraduate deaneries on dedicated webpages prior to details being uploaded onto the relevant web page; and if she will make a statement. [136010]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: The Department has commissioned a report into the breach of security of the Medical Training Application Service website the findings of which we will publish.

Drugs: Misuse

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each London borough were recorded as having an addiction to *(a)* cocaine, *(b)* heroin, *(c)* ecstasy and *(d)* other illegal drugs in each of the last 10 years. [132921]

Caroline Flint: Drug misusers are not required to register their addiction so we are not able to provide this information.

Fertility

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public funding is provided annually for the National Gamete Donation Trust. [131834]

Caroline Flint: The National Gamete Donation Trust received £40,900 in 2006-07 and has been awarded a grant of £40,000 for 2007-08 and £40,000 for 2008-09. The grants are provided for the Trust's administrative costs in providing information about sperm and egg donation and are given under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.

Food: Advertising

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the potential effectiveness of the Office of Communications' advertising ban on junk food based on the Food Standards Agency's nutrient profiling model; and if she will make a statement. [131986]

Caroline Flint: The Office of Communications' (Ofcom) has assessed the impact of the new rules restricting television advertising to children for food that is high in fat, salt and sugar. They are expected to reduce children's exposure to advertising impacts by 41 per cent. for four to 15-year-olds and 51 per cent. for four to nine-year-olds. Ofcom will review the effectiveness and scope of the new restrictions in autumn 2008, one year after the full implementation of the new content rules.

The Department will monitor the impact of new restrictions in both broadcast and non-broadcast media to see whether they deliver the Government's commitment to changing the nature and balance of food and drink advertising to children. An interim review will be conducted in autumn 2007, and the Department has committed to work with Ofcom and industry partners on a more detailed review in 2008. On that basis, the Government will decide whether further action, such as legislation, is required.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects her Department's Food and Health Advertising and Promotion Forum to deliver its proposals on all non-broadcast promotion of foods high in fat, sugar and salt to children. [135481]

Caroline Flint: The Committee on Advertising Practice (CAP) recently announced new content restrictions on the promotion of food and drink to children in non-broadcast media. These restrictions will apply from 1 July to food and drink advertising to children under 16, with stricter rules for the content of adverts aimed at pre and primary school children.

The Department, along with members of its Food and Drink Advertising and Promotion Forum, are investigating what voluntary action can be taken in those media that fall outside of the CAP code, packaging, sponsorship, point of sale and new media. Progress in these areas will feed into the Government's interim review in autumn 2007, which will consider whether the new restrictions in broadcast and non-broadcast media are in practice delivering the Government's commitment to change the nature and balance of food and drink advertising to children.

The Government will undertake a more detailed review of advertising and promotional trends in 2008.

Food: Health Claims

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether food products making health claims referring to *(a)* slimming and weight-control,

(b) psychology and behaviour and *(c)* children's development and health (i) were able to be placed on the UK market after 19 January 2007 and (ii) will be able to be placed on the market after 7 July 2007 under EC Regulation 1924/2006 on Nutrition and Health Claims Made on Foods; and if she will make a statement; [134240]

(2) whether food products making health claims based upon *(a)* generally accepted scientific evidence and *(b)* newly emerging science were (i) able to be placed on the UK market after 19 January 2007 and (ii) will be able to be placed on the market after 7 July 2007 under EC regulation 1924/2006 on Nutrition and Health Claims Made on Foods; and if she will make a statement. [134241]

Caroline Flint: The Regulation puts in place various transitional periods, and associated conditions, which allow health claims to continue to be made following the application date of 1 July and until the community list of health claims has been adopted. These transitional periods relate to the health claim, rather than the product or the nature of supporting evidence.

The specific transitional period for claims which refer to the role of a nutrient or other substance in growth, development and the normal function of the body allows claims on the market prior to 19 January 2007 to continue to be used until 31 January 2010 (the date of adoption of the community list); claims which refer to psychological and behavioural functions and slimming or weight control on the market prior to 19 January 2007 may continue to be used on the condition that an application for authorisation has been made prior to 19 January 2008. All these claims may remain on the market until a decision is taken whether or not to include them in the community list.

The controls for claims referring to children's development and health were added late in negotiations and as a result specific transitional periods were not included. There is a possibility that a transition period could be included with an amendment on comitology currently being discussed. Both the Council and Commission have indicated that they would support this, if proposed by the European Parliament.

Food: Labelling

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the average quantity or weight of a serving of a particular food is taken into account when determining the labelling used under the Food Safety Agency's nutrient profiling model. [132763]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency's nutrient profiling model has been developed solely as a tool for Ofcom to use to redress the imbalance of television advertising to children. It is not used for labelling purposes. It assesses food on a 100g basis rather than portion size.

Health Hazards: Aerials

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice she has received from the Chief Medical Officer on the health effects of mobile telephone masts; and what studies are under way. [135638]

Caroline Flint: The Stewart report in 2000 comprehensively reviewed the scientific literature and concluded that, the balance of evidence to date suggests that exposures below international guidelines do not cause health effects to the general population, www.iegmp.org.uk. This report and a more recent review, "Mobile Phones and Health 2004", documents of the National Radiological Protection Board, volume 15, No. 5, form the basis of health advice relating to mobile phone technology. This advice is available on the web site of the Health Protection Agency's Radiation Protection Division (HPA-RPD) at www.hpa.org.uk/radiation. Both these reports, additionally, recommended further research as part of an overall precautionary approach to the use of mobile phone technology pending the availability of more robust scientific research results.

The independently managed mobile telecommunications and health research (MTHR) programme was set up in 2001 in response to the Stewart report recommendations. It is currently supporting a number of studies into the possible health effects of mobile phone technology and these are described on the MTHR website at:

www.mthr.org.uk.

All mobile phones and base stations in this country comply with international guidelines that are based on comprehensive reviews of the scientific literature. Measurements undertaken by both the HPA and by Ofcom, www.ofcom.org.uk have consistently shown that exposures to radio signals from base stations are lower than the international guideline levels.

Health Services: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were at West Hertfordshire Acute Hospital Trust *(a)* in each specialty and *(b)* in total excluding the specialties transferred to Dacorum Primary Care Trust in each year since 2000. [135346]

Andy Burnham: The following tables show the count of finished consultant episodes by speciality breakdown by West Hertfordshire Hospitals National Health Service Trust and Dacorum Primary Care Trust (PCT) a provider for the period 2000-01 to 2005-06 NHS Hospitals England

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Main specialty	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-0 4*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*
Not known	—	*	—	16	97	1,243
General surgery	9,697	9,900	9,668	9,195	8,838	9,023
Urology	4,502	4,532	4,658	4,481	4,264	4,180
Trauma and Orthopaedics	7,390	7,246	7,260	7,445	7,432	6,755
Ear Nose and Throat (ENT)	1,236	1,090	1,064	918	1,246	1,229

	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust					
Main specialty	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*
Ophthalmology	2,074	1,841	1,977	1,173	1,274	1,692
Oral surgery	613	706	800	627	521	962
Restorative dentistry	—	—	—	*	—	—
Orthodontics	—	—	—	—	—	*
Plastic surgery	8,018	7,712	7,912	7,178	6,679	6,624
Cardiothoracic surgery	—	—	541	—	—	38
A&E	4,800	3,334	554	394	299	237
Anaesthetics	506	442	*	448	464	467
General Medicine	9,313	8,914	8,633	9,469	9,916	8,547
Gastroenterology	5,872	5,767	5,631	5,205	5,498	5,052
Endocrinology	129	200	282	389	676	1,007
Haematology (clinical)	1,928	2,583	2,884	2,761	2,071	892
Rehabilitation	—	—	—	*	—	134
Palliative Medicine	—	331	351	355	400	343
Cardiology	3,691	3,308	2,073	1,416	1,490	1,706
Dermatology	252	551	564	675	850	911
Thoracic medicine	1,714	1,225	1,362	1,305	1,324	1,461
Genitourinary medicine	—	*	—	—	—	—
Nephrology	20	46	16	*	—	*
Medical oncology	292	748	707	505	491	538
Neurology	17	17	*	20	23	35
Rheumatology	816	502	393	172	183	89
Paediatrics	5,430	4,998	5,293	4,973	—	2,405
Geriatric medicine	7,313	7,501	6,819	5,930	4,751	4,995
Obstetrics for patients using a hospital bed or delivery facilities	8,619	8,794	8,385	7,648	8,057	6,325
Gynaecology	4,379	4,487	4,616	4,699	5,085	5,495
Mental handicap	—	*	*	*	—	—
Radiotherapy	820	4,768	*	4,606	5,138	5,202
Haematology	—	—	4,688	—	181	1,149
Immunopathology	138	112	96	107	73	15
Total	89,579	91,662	87,245	82,118	77,321	78,765

Source
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

	Dacorum PCT				
	Dacorum PCT as a provider				
Main specialty	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
Geriatric medicine	—	217	204	199	145
Community medicine	272	—	—	—	—
Total	272	217	204	199	145

Notes
Data Quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
Specialty
Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as Acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information.
Low Numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk). We have used secondary suppression where the total figures were disclosive.
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Health Services: Sexual Health

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 570W, on abortion, if she will list the *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations consulted prior to the publication of the Recommended Standards for Sexual Health Services; and if she will make a statement. [134456]

Caroline Flint: A list of those consulted during the development of the Recommended Standards for Sexual Health Services can be found in Appendix D of the standards, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each health trust which has appropriate responsibilities spent on out-of-authority placements for special educational and health needs in each of the last three years. [122345]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Heart Disease

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking following the recent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence report on the use of myocardial perfusion scans for patients presenting with chest pain. [128223]

Caroline Flint: There are several competing technologies for assessing myocardial perfusion. All cardiac centres should be developing strategies for perfusion imaging choosing the technology that best suits local circumstances and expertise.

Heart Disease: Screening

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 402W, if she will introduce screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm for men aged 65 years and over; what her response has been to the recent National Screening Committee decision to recommend such screening without further conditions; and if she will make a statement. [135601]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The UK National Screening Committee (NSC) has advised that screening for men aged 65 for abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) can be recommended in principle subject to further work, particularly on the appropriate configuration of treatment services and the provision for men to make an informed choice about whether to undergo screening. At its meeting in March 2007 the NSC considered further work undertaken by the AAA screening working group. More detailed work will now be undertaken on the practical issues that would be involved in implementation.

Heroin

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors are licensed to prescribe heroin to drug misusers; how many pilot trials relating to the prescription of heroin for drug misusers are being undertaken; how many drug misusers are part of these trials and being prescribed heroin; and when the trials *(a)* started and *(b)* are expected to end. [134011]

Caroline Flint: There are currently 129 doctors licensed to prescribe diamorphine (heroin) for the treatment of addiction in the United Kingdom.

The Randomised Injectable Opiate Treatment Trial is currently under way in two sites in Darlington and London. The National Addiction Centre, supported by Government, is examining injectable diamorphine, injectable methadone and oral methadone treatments in a randomised controlled trial. The aim is to recruit 150 persons to participate in the trial, so approximately 50 will be prescribed diamorphine. The trial is due to be completed in 2008, and it started in 2005. The results on outcomes will be published after completion of the trial and following independent peer review.

Homeopathy

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the level of availability of treatment in homeopathic hospitals to NHS patients in England. [132785]

Caroline Flint: The homeopathic hospitals in the United Kingdom fall under the jurisdiction of the national health service in the area in which they are based. Any decisions on the services any of these hospitals provide are the responsibility of those NHS health care organisations.

The Government consider that decision-making on individual clinical interventions, whether conventional, or complementary/alternative treatments, have to be a matter for local NHS service providers and practitioners as they are best placed to know their community's needs. In making such decisions, they have to take into account evidence for the safety and clinical and cost-effectiveness of any treatments, the availability of suitably qualified practitioners, and the needs of the individual patient. Clinical responsibility rests with the NHS professional who makes the decision to refer and who must therefore be able to justify any treatment they recommend. If they are unconvinced about the suitability of a particular treatment, they cannot be made to refer.

Hospitals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new hospitals were opened in each year since 1979. [134111]

Andy Burnham: Detailed information from the first stages of a hospital build procurement only began being collected centrally in 1979.

The number of hospital schemes with a capital value of £25 million (at 1990-2000 prices) and over opened in each year since 1979 are listed.

	Number of schemes	*Public capital/private finance initiative (PFI) capital*
1983	2	Public
1984	4	Public
1985	4	Public
1986	6	Public
1987	6	Public
1988	9	Public
1989	4	Public
1990	6	Public
1991	9	Public

	Number of schemes	Public capital/private finance initiative (PFI) capital
1992	8	Public
1993	6	Public
1994	1	Public
1995	6	Public
1996	6	Public
1997	5	Public
1998	4	Public
1999	0	—
2000	4	1 public, 3 PFI
2001	8	1 public, 7 PFI
2002	10	3 public, 7 PFI
2003	8	PFI
2004	5	4 public, 1 PFI
2005	8	4 public, 4 PFI
2006	17	4 public, 13 PFI
2007	3	PFI

Hospital schemes with a capital value of £25 million and over represent a significant reconfiguration or rationalisation of services, normally involving the addition of a major new wing or centre or the partial or total rebuild of the main hospital.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the causes of the correlation between primary care trusts with low-age needs scores and health economies with greater distance from the out-patient booking time target reported in her Department's Chief Economist's report "Explaining NHS deficits", published on 20 February; [127838]

(2) what assessment she has made of the reasons for the relationship between primary care trusts with low-age needs scores and health economies with greater distance from the four-hour accident and emergency waiting time target reported in her Department's Chief Economist's report, "Explaining NHS deficits", published on 20 February. [127839]

Andy Burnham: There is a statistically significant relationship between starting positions in terms of meeting a number of important performance targets and age/needs. The correlation is not a perfect one (with correlation coefficients ranging from -0.28 in the case of distance to the accident and emergency-four hour wait and age/needs to -0.13 in the case of distance to the outpatient booking targets and age/needs). Some parts of the country with low age/needs did not have far to travel in meeting these targets. The reasons behind the relationship are complex.

Historical under-performance in low age/needs areas is likely to have existed for some time. By raising the quality of care to uniform national standards, the Government have significantly improved services provided to patients in these areas.

While distance to meeting performance targets was found to be a contributory factor in causing recent national health service deficits in certain parts of the country, as stated in the Chief Economist's report "Explaining NHS deficits, 2003/04-2005/06", it is by no means considered to be the only, or even the most important, contributory factor.

The age and need indexes, and the interactions between them, are currently being reviewed by independent academic researchers under the auspices of the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation. A new age and need adjustment for weighted capitation may emerge from this research for resource allocation in 2008-09.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish the planned draft Bill amending the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals will be supplied copies (i) free of charge and (ii) upon payment of a charge; and if she will make a statement. [134457]

Caroline Flint: The draft Bill will be published shortly. It will be published as a command paper, available online (free of charge) or in hard copy via TSO (The Stationery Office) and its accredited agents (priced). In addition the Department will distribute complimentary copies of the draft Bill to a range of stakeholder organisations with an established interest in this field.

Hyperactivity: Medical Treatments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has conducted into the use of *(a)* diet and *(b)* brain exercises to control developmental conditions such as Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder. [132314]

Caroline Flint: The new National Institute for Health Research South London and Maudsley NHS Trust and Institute of Psychiatry Biomedical Research Centre, funded by the Department, will research mental health disorders starting in childhood, including attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). This will include work on cognitive therapy.

The Medical Research Council, one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research, currently supports a broad portfolio of research relevant to ADHD. A number of the programmes in the portfolio are directly relevant to the hon. Gentleman's question and to ADHD more generally, and include research on the interaction of physical, environmental and social factors and on rehabilitation.

The Food Standards Agency has published a systematic review of evidence on the effect of diet and nutrition on learning, education and performance in school aged children. This included studies examining ADHD symptoms. Overall, the review concluded that there is insufficient evidence to reach a firm conclusion on the effect of specific nutrients or foods on learning or performance.

The link between diet and cognitive function is a key theme of the Food Standards Agency's Nutritional Status and Function research programme. Research completed to date has found no clear association between the two.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many human embryos were created in each year since the passage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; and how many of these embryos have been brought to birth. [136746]

Caroline Flint: Information on the number of embryos that developed to a live birth is not held centrally nor by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). Data on the total number of treatment cycles, the number resulting in a live birth and the number of embryos created are shown in the following table.

Total number of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment cycles, embryos created and treatments resulting in live births 1991 to 2004[1]

	Treatments involving fresh (non- frozen) embryos			*Treatments involving frozen embryos*[2]		*Non-treatment*[3]	
Year (calendar)	*Treatment cycles*	*Embryos created*	*Treatment cycles with live birth outcome*	*Treatment cycles*	*Treatment cycles with live birth outcome*	*Non-treatment cycles*	*Embryos created*
1991	5,948	26,543	822	696	105	—	—
1992	16,022	75,456	2,114	2,233	252	—	—
1993	18,860	92,809	2,757	2,939	376	—	—
1994	21,345	106,425	3,144	3,491	402	—	—
1995	24,753	126,078	3,856	4,548	542	—	—
1996	27,428	148,691	4,765	5,994	691	—	—
1997	27,811	146,066	4,993	6,178	707	—	—
1998	29,078	163,206	5,584	6,445	781	—	—
1999	28,212	163,840	5,833	6,602	844	804	575
2000	28,591	170,406	5,981	6,877	908	976	728
2001	28,812	176,947	6,171	7,415	1,017	898	603
2002	29,781	178,794	6,708	7,639	1,070	756	724
2003	30,069	179,906	6,924	7,449	1,178	713	968
2004	32,141	185,409	7,123	7,956	1,167	694	1,038

[1] 2004 is the most recent year for which information is available.
[2] Embryos used in these cycles may have been created in previous years as part of fresh treatment cycles.
[3] These are IVF cycles that, although started, did not progress to embryo transfer. These embryos may have been used in a patient's later frozen treatment cycles or for embryo donation. No data is held for years 1991-1998.
Source:
HFEA

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has made an assessment of the effects on children aged between five and 16 years of age and their families of the changes to the current provision of continence appliances and products proposed in the consultation on arrangements for the reimbursement pricing of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the drug tariff. [130365]

Caroline Flint: In reviewing the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances, and related services, the Department has always made it clear that a key objective has been to maintain and, where appropriate, to improve patient care. This objective embraces all patient groups, including young people.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 139W, on influenza, what steps she is taking to meet the World Health Organisation's target of vaccinating 75 per cent. of high risk groups against seasonal influenza, in addition to the elderly. [131899]

Caroline Flint: In 2003, the World Health Assembly urged member states with influenza vaccination policies to increase vaccination coverage of all people in high risk groups. The 75 per cent. uptake target set by the World Health Organisation (WHO) was for the elderly to be reached by 2010. This target was achieved in 2005-06, when uptake in those aged 65 and over reached 75.3 per cent.

WHO did not set a target for those less than 65 years with risk factors.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* those aged 65 and over and *(b)* those aged under 65 and judged to be clinically at risk were immunised against seasonal influenza in each year since 2000-01. [135875]

Caroline Flint: The proportion of influenza vaccine uptake in those aged 65 and over and those aged under 65 and judged to be clinically at risk since 2000-01 is shown as follows.

Uptake in those aged 65 years and over

	Percentage
2000-01	65.3
2001-02	67.7
2002-03	68.5
2003-04	71.0
2004-05	71.5
2005-06	75.3
2006-07	74.0

Uptake in clinical risk groups aged under 65 years

	Percentage
2000-01	[x]
2001-02	[x]
2002-03	[x]
2003-04	[x]
2004-05	42.0
2005-06	48.0
2006-07	42.0

[x] Data not collected

Note:
These data are collected by the Health Protection Agency.

Insulin

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 585W, on insulin, what the last five dates were on which her Department's officials discussed with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence its future programme on insulin treatments. [136869]

Caroline Flint: Dr. Sue Roberts the National Clinical Director for Diabetes and Dr. Nick Summerton, Consultant Clinical and Public Health Advisor (Topic Selection) at the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have met on the following occasions, where a range of issues were discussed:

16 November 2006;

17 November 2006;

9 January 2007;

1 February 2007; and

7 March 2007.

Life Expectancy

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department undertook to investigate differences in life expectancy in different parts of the UK in each of the last five years. [132252]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not over the last five years commissioned generic research of the sort to which the hon. Gentleman refers.

Lung Cancer: NICE

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the financial impact on the NHS of positive National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence appraisals for medicines for lung cancer. [129814]

Caroline Flint: There is currently no extant completed technology appraisal from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) of medicines for lung cancer. However, NICE published an appraisal of docetaxel, paclitaxel, gemcitabine, and vinorelbine for non small-cell lung cancer in June 2001. This appraisal was updated by and incorporated into the clinical guideline on lung cancer published in February 2005. NICE's estimate of full-year costs in England and Wales was £9.55 million.

NICE is currently undertaking two Single Technology Appraisals (STAs) on Tarceva and Alimta for non small-cell lung cancer.

Maternity Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials held with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the decision by the Institute to reopen its consultation on chapter three of its draft clinical guidance on intrapartum care. [131957]

Caroline Flint: Departmental officials were made aware of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) decision to issue a further consultation document on chapter three of its draft clinical guidance on intrapartum care shortly before that document was published. Ministers have held no discussions with NICE on this issue.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the adequacy of the policy of not centrally collecting and collating data on the transportation of premature babies under NHS care between health trusts; and if she will make a statement. [135456]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Although we do not collect data centrally on the transportation of premature babies, that is not to say that we do not consider that this is an important issue. Safety has always been a Government priority. "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service", published on 3 April, ensures that there will be more flexible and accessible maternity services, which will better meet the needs of local families and improve their experience of care, driving up the quality and efficiency of services. Through "Safety first: a report for patients, clinicians and healthcare managers" specialist support is provided at local national health service organisation levels in identifying patient safety risks, implementing solutions and sharing the learning. In addition, the National Audit Office (NAO) is undertaking a value for money study into neonatal services in England. The NAO will consider transport issues as part of their deliberations.

Medical Equipment

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of hospitals have allocated *(a)* part and *(b)* all of the additional funding provided to them under the Capital Challenge Fund scheme for the funding of medical devices; [133383]

(2) what percentage of the total Capital Challenge Fund has been allocated for *(a)* medical devices, *(b)* single bay creation and *(c)* service modification. [133386]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not available centrally. Trusts applying for an allocation from the Capital Challenge Fund were required to allocate the funds to combating healthcare acquired infections, but were not required to give a breakdown of the details of the proposed expenditure.

Medical Records

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines or procedures are used by *(a)* hospital and *(b)* general practitioners' staff to ensure that patient records are handled correctly. [134881]

Caroline Flint: The NHS Confidentiality Code of Practice, published in November 2003, provides guidance on required practice for those who work within or under contract to national health service organisations about the safeguarding of confidentiality, and patients' consent to the use of their health records. The guidance includes an explanation of the main relevant legal requirements, and examples of appropriate information disclosure decisions in practice. The guidance applies equally to clinicians, managers, and all other staff in both primary and secondary care settings whose work involves access to personal information and, where appropriate, includes staff in the private and voluntary sectors.

A full version of the code can be downloaded from the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/06/92/54/04069254.pdf, a copy has been placed in the Library. The code has been endorsed by the Information. Commissioner, the General Medical Council, and the British Medical Association.

Strong disincentives exist which protect against abuse of patient confidentiality. NHS organisations are responsible, as employers, for the actions taken on their behalf by their employees, and for disciplining their staff when they behave inappropriately. Accessing personal information without a legitimate reason constitutes a breach of the code. Staff who breach patient confidentiality are subject to professional disciplinary measures. Offending doctors and nurses will be reported to their professional regulatory bodies and may face additional disciplinary action, including losing their licence to practice. Separate legal penalties for individuals and organisations misusing personal health and other information are provided for under Section 60 of the Data Protection Act.

Medical Records: Disclosure of Information

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rights of personal compensation or redress will be available to the patients concerned in respect of commitments made in the NHS care record guarantee in the event of any failure of information governance which results in improper use of disclosure of information from patient records in breach of the guarantee. [132553]

Caroline Flint: Responsibility for meeting information governance standards rests with local national health service organisations and their staff. NHS Connecting for Health has introduced a requirement for NHS organisations to sign a statement of compliance, indicating that they meet all appropriate standards and the Department has made information governance standards a key element of performance management within the NHS for the coming year. Organisations will be held accountable for any failings, and in extreme cases will be denied access to the NHS information technology infrastructure until problems are rectified. Where staff knowingly misuse systems we would expect their employing organisation to invoke appropriate disciplinary proceedings.

Where a failure to meet standards also results in a breach of confidentiality or of data protection requirements, the individual patients concerned have recourse to NHS complaints procedures, the Information Commissioner, and the courts. Health professionals may also be reported to their regulatory bodies if they are in breach of professional standards.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when NHS patient records are made available to health service providers in the private sector, what steps are *(a)* required of the private sector entity *(b)* taken by the NHS to ensure (i) separation of NHS and private sector database systems and (ii) responsible use and disposition of data by the private sector entity; and what (A) resources and (B) arrangements are in place for technical audit and inspection of IT systems operated by private providers. [134130]

Caroline Flint: Personal health information may only be made available to private sector providers providing services to national health service patients with the consent of the individual patient concerned, and under a contract that sets out the requirement that the appropriate information governance standards required of NHS bodies covering confidentiality, security and record retention are complied with in full.

Data used in the treatment of NHS patients are not required to be held in a separate database. However, the data handling and management systems to be used must pass a technical and information governance compliance process which includes an assessment that they conform with the requirements of the care record guarantee.

As part of the initial information governance compliance process documentary evidence, including external audits, are required to be provided by the private sector providers. These are reviewed annually through evidence provided by the provider through the Information Governance Toolkit. Under the most recent private sector provider contracts this has been extended to compliance with IS027001, the new international information security management standard. The Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency retains the right to undertake a direct audit of any private sector provider should they feel that is required.

Medical Records: Pharmacy

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether pharmacists will be included among the health professionals authorised to access a patient's care record through the NHS Care Records Service; and if she will make a statement; [128829]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of enabling pharmacists access to patients' care records through the NHS Care Records Service. [128830]

Caroline Flint: The role of community pharmacists is evolving to enable them to play a full part in meeting the demands of 21st century healthcare, and we believe

that in order to be able to carry out these wider roles safely and effectively community pharmacists will need appropriate access to healthcare records. However, we also recognise, from talking with stakeholders, that there are concerns about how patient consent and confidentiality will be managed in a community pharmacy setting. Information governance standards will need to be strictly adhered to, and appropriate assurance mechanisms put in place before community pharmacists will be permitted access to the national health service care records service. We are committed to public consultation on these issues.

Medical Treatments: Testing

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which academic referral centres are contracted to assess *(a)* drugs for the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence and *(b)* other medical technologies; and what plans she has to standardise the clinical models in different centres assessing new technologies. [134120]

Caroline Flint: The Department has contracts with seven technology assessment review teams to undertake reviews including reviews for National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The teams are based at the following universities:

Aberdeen;
York;
Liverpool;
Sheffield;
Birmingham;
Southampton; and
Peninsula.

Each has a set of core methodological skills that mean any one team could be allocated any one topic (drugs or other medical technologies), although teams are encouraged to specialise. All teams follow the NICE methods guide in terms of methodological approach to ensure standardisation. The guide is available on the NICE website at:

guidance.nice.org.uk

Mental Health Services: Finance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for her Department's practice of relating levels of funding for severe and enduring mental health problems to levels of social deprivation. [135666]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* Mental health needs are accounted for in the needs element of the weighted-capitation formula. The needs adjustment was examined as part of a major review of the formula prior to the 2003-04 to 2005-06 revenue allocations to primary care trusts. The review was overseen by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation, and the results were published in the Allocation of Resources to English Areas (AREA) report. A copy of the AREA report has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Financeandplanning/Allocations/DH_4137767

Mental Health Services: Moseley Hall Hospital

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost to the NHS of delays in the approval process for the construction of the new mental health facilities for elderly people at Moseley Hall Hospital since the planning application was first approved in principle; and if she will make a statement. [135769]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not made an estimate of the cost to the national health service of delays in the approval process for the construction of the new mental health facilities for elderly people at Moseley Hall hospital as this is a matter for the NHS locally.

The older peoples service developments planned for the Moseley Hall hospital site form an essential part of the Birmingham New Hospitals project. Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust, the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and Consort Healthcare are working together to take this project forward.

Mental Health Services: Northern Region

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute mental health beds there were in the Northern Region in the last three years; and in which hospitals they were located. [135860]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mental Illness

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of expenditure on commissioned secondary mental illness services went to *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* non-NHS providers in each of the last 10 years. [129898]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the proportion of expenditure commissioned by secondary mental illness services by national health service trusts and non-NHS trusts providers is not available. Mental health strategies collects information on behalf of the Department on adult mental health planned expenditure in England. The following table shows the proportion of adult MH planned expenditure by NHS trust and non-NHS trusts providers from 2001-02 to 2005-06.

Adult mental health planned expenditure from 2001-02 to 2005-06 and percentage split by provider type

	All NHS organisation (Percentage)	*Non-NHS organisation (Percentage)*	*Total investment (£000)*
2001-02	70.7	29.3	3,254
2002-03	73.4	26.6	3,709
2003-04	72.9	27.1	3,943
2004-05	73.7	26.3	4,520
2005-06	73.7	26.3	4,904

Notes:
1. Percentage split by commissioner type exclude unreported investment.
2. Total investment include reported and unreported investment.
3. Non-NHS providers include social services, voluntary and the independent sectors.

Source:
Mental Health Strategies survey.

Methylamphetamine

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence she gathered of the effectiveness of measures designed to restrict opportunities to manufacture methylamphetamine from pseudephedrine and ephedrine used in other countries prior to consulting on changing the legal status of medicines containing these substances to prescription-only in the UK. [128934]

Caroline Flint: Although the prevalence of misuse of methylamphetamine is believed to be currently low in the United Kingdom (UK), the Association of Chief Police Officers is receiving increasing levels of intelligence about the prevalence of methylamphetamine. If methylamphetamine did secure a hold in the UK, the consequences would undoubtedly be very serious. The international experience shows that misuse can spread rapidly when certain conditions prevail and the advice of UK enforcement authorities is that most of these conditions now prevail in the UK.

The experience of comparator countries such as the United States of America (USA), Australia and New Zealand is that once a small number of illicit domestic laboratories become established, a sharper rise in prevalence in these countries has followed. A police force in America reported that if the USA had made ephedrine and pseudoephedrine based products prescription only at a much earlier stage, they would have prevented to a large extent the massive growth in small home made laboratories. The regulatory action taken by the Food and Drug Administration has contributed to a sharp decrease in domestic methylamphetamine production.

The Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) also considered non-statutory options to restrict the availability of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, such as rigorous supervision of pharmacy sales of single packs, and concluded that these measures alone would not be sufficient to protect public health. In order to protect public health in the UK, the CHM concluded that a consultation exercise should be conducted on changing the legal status of these medicines, together with restricting the pack size. Ministers accepted this advice and a full public consultation exercise commenced on 7 March 2007 and can be accessed via the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) website at www.mhra.gov.uk. The MHRA would welcome views on the merits of all the consultation proposals and is hosting a meeting with key stakeholders next month.

Minimally Conscious State

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by her Department on persons in a minimally conscious state; and if she will make a statement. [129523]

Caroline Flint: None.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Innovation.

The MRC has funded the following studies of relevance to the hon. Gentleman's question:

Dr. Adrian Owen's work at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit in Cambridge which has demonstrated that it is possible to detect awareness in patients suffering from persistent vegetative state;

the CRASH trial – a large simple placebo-controlled trial, among adults with head injury and impaired consciousness, of the effects of corticosteroids on death and disability – led by a team at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; and

a university of Southampton study seeking to develop of a clinically relevant in vitro model of traumatic brain injury.

Mite Allergens

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* supported into mite allergens; and whether this research indicates potential risks to human health. [128139]

Caroline Flint: The Department is currently funding a research programme at a cost of £2.5 million over five years at the Social Medicine and Health Services Research Unit at Imperial College, London on respiratory epidemiology. Part of this programme includes research on allergens, including house dust mites.

The unit is the coordinating centre for the second European Community Respiratory Health Survey. The survey has sought among other things to determine the risk attributable to chronic exposure to environmental risk factors including mite allergens for the incidence and prognosis of allergy, allergic disease and low lung function. Results will be published in due course.

The Medical Research Council, one of the main agencies through which the United Kingdom Government support medical and clinical research, is currently funding a large volume of underpinning work on allergic mechanisms and on asthma, although none specifically on mite allergens at present.

Multiple Sclerosis: Research

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding her Department makes available for research into multiple sclerosis. [132288]

Caroline Flint: The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service. Spend by the Department's national research programmes and by the Medical Research Council (MRC) on multiple sclerosis is shown in the table.

Expenditure on multiple sclerosis research

£ million

	Department of Health	*Medical Research Council*
2000-01	0.5	1.5
2001-02	0.6	2.1
2002-03	0.1	1.8
2003-04	0.1	1.1
2004-05	0.1	1.4
2005-06	0.8	n/a

n/a = not available

Note:

The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Innovation.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a number concerned with multiple sclerosis are available on the national research register at:

www.dh.gov.uk/research

Muscular Dystrophy

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the progress made by the MDEX consortium into researching Duchenne muscular dystrophy; and if she will make a statement. [128924]

Caroline Flint: Lord Hunt met with representatives from the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy research team on 15 March. The MDEX Consortium research and clinical trial that the Department is funding with £1.6 million is progressing well, with the first patient due to receive the first dose of the experimental molecule within the next few months.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to increase the level of public spending on research into *(a)* treatments and *(b)* cures for muscular dystrophy. [132169]

Caroline Flint: Both the Department and the Medical Research Council (MRC) have in recent years invested in research related to Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), and will continue to do so.

The Department's policy research programme has recently launched a major new research initiative on long-term neurological conditions. One of the seven, linked studies commissioned under the initiative "Transition to Adulthood: the experiences and needs of young men with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and their Families" is specifically focused on DMD.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" will result in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. Awards will be made after open, competitive, peer review we do not plan to ring fence funds for specific conditions.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 20 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 169-170W, on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraisals, what progress has been made in the work to ensure NICE's independent advisory committee takes account of wider societal costs when making its recommendations. [131916]

Caroline Flint: In January 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published two technology appraisals on treatments for drug misuse;

methadone and buprenorphine for the management of opioid dependence;

naltrexone for the management of opioid dependence.

NICE undertook sensitivity analyses to ensure that the Appraisal Committee was aware of the related wider societal costs and benefits associated with the issues addressed in these appraisals.

National Treatment Agency

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the £50 million allocated to the National Treatment Agency for capital funding has been *(a)* bid for and *(b)* paid out to bidders. [130282]

Caroline Flint: On 21 June 2006 the Department announced additional capital funding to improve the capacity and outcomes of in-patient and residential rehabilitation services via a strategic bidding process.

The National Panel received 76 bids totalling £106 million and agreed allocations of £54.3 million to strategic health authorities. On 23 February 2007 the Department wrote to all strategic health authority chief executive officers informing them of allocations and recommendations for spend based upon the outcome of the capital strategic bidding process.

Funding will begin to be allocated to strategic health authorities early in the 2007-08 financial year.

Neonatal Care

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests to care for seriously ill premature babies have been turned down in the last two years for which complete data are available, broken down by NHS trust. [103496]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS-specific Inflation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 247W, on NHS-specific inflation, what the NHS-specific inflation index was for each year since 1997-98. [131926]

Andy Burnham: The following table reports, from 1997-98 to 2005-06 the hospital and community health service (HCHS) pay and prices, HCHS capital, and family health service (FHS) indices, which together account for more than 95 per cent. of total net national health service expenditure.

	Pay and prices	*Capital*	*Percentage FHS*
1997-98	1.7	4.2	3.0
1998-99	4.0	3.0	3.0
1999-2000	4.5	2.8	4.1
2000-01	4.2	5.7	2.7
2001-02	5.1	6.5	2.1
2002-03	3.5	4.5	3.9
2003-04	5.2	4.8	4.6
2004-05	3.3	7.6	n/a
2005-06	3.7	2.4	n/a

Notes:

1. Provisional data subject to revision.
2. The indices above cover more than 95 per cent. of total net NHS expenditure.
3. From 2004-05 the FHS index is no longer available due to the introduction of the new general medical services (GMS) contract leading to a discontinuity in the GMS/personal medical services data series. Consequently, from 2004-05, the NHS inflation index is no longer calculable.

NHS Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS organisations which underspend against their capital budget may carry forward the underspend into future financial years. [112362]

Andy Burnham: With the implementation of the new capital regime announced in "The NHS in England: the operating framework for 2007-08", capital funding for national health service trusts is determined solely by the affordability of the proposed investments, financed by a system of loans, and subject to a prudential borrowing regime and national constraints. As part of the arrangements for the transition into the new regime, NHS trusts can access public dividend capital in respect of slippage on earlier financial years' central capital budgets, and for other capital expenditure where the contract was signed on or before 1 December 2006.

There are no changes to the primary care trusts (PCT) capital allocations and financing arrangements in 2007-08. The 2007-08 PCT capital plans are currently being analysed to determine the affordability of any carry forward of 2006-07 underspending.

NHS Information Technology

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 775, on NHS information technology, (1) what assessment she has made of the *(a)* appropriateness and *(b)* effectiveness of operating the choose and book system in the area covered by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust; [134986]

(2) what assessment she has made of the *(a)* usage level, *(b)* cost of running and *(c)* effectiveness of the choose and book system in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. [134987]

Caroline Flint: For Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust (PCT) in March 2007, choose and book was used for 46 per cent. of general practitioner referrals to first outpatients. The national average was 38 per cent.

Choose and book has been shown to reduce the number of missed appointments and to improve the accuracy of referrals. Benefits realisation in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly specifically is a matter for the PCT. Local budgets are also a matter for local decision.

NHS: Drugs

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department has received on disparities between the medicines approved by the Scottish Medicines Consortium and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [130276]

Caroline Flint: The Department could only identify such correspondence at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department will respond to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's proposal for an Ultra-Orphan Drugs Evaluation Committee to undertake the appraisal of medicines for very rare diseases; and if she will make a statement. [131654]

Caroline Flint: Ministers have received the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's report on appraising ultra-orphan drugs and have concluded that it is not appropriate at this time to establish a separate appraisal system for such drugs. This position will be kept under review.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what advice her Department publishes on the disposal of unused medicines; [133828]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of the value of unused medicines returned to pharmacies. [133835]

Caroline Flint: The Department published "Implementing the new community pharmacy contractual framework—Information for Primary Care Trusts" in April 2005, which includes a section on safe disposal of unwanted medicines as an essential service to be provided by all community pharmacies. "Safe management of healthcare waste" was also published by the Department in November 2006—a best practice guide for the management of healthcare waste including medicines.

The Department has worked with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) and other pharmacy organisations to develop a "Community pharmacy sector guide on waste disposal", which was published by the PSNC in March 2007.

Advice on the safe disposal of controlled drugs, commissioned by the Department, is available in "A guide to good practice in the management of controlled drugs in primary care" published by the National Prescribing Centre in February 2007. The Department is developing a similar guide for the safe management of controlled drugs in secondary care.

Advice to patients and the national health service on the safe disposal of medicines is also made available through a variety of sources such as NHS Direct and Ask About Medicines Week.

The annual cost of medicines returned to pharmacies unused is not held centrally by the Department. It has been previously estimated that such unused medicines are probably worth £100 million per year.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reason a full regulatory impact assessment was not carried out on the proposals in her Department's consultation document Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff; [135194]

(2) what methods her Department used to come to the conclusion that the proposals outlined in the document Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff would not change the market structurally; and which *(a)* dispensing appliance contractors, *(b)* trade associations and *(c)* industry analysts were consulted in reaching this conclusion; [135195]

(3) for what reason the partial regulatory impact assessment on Arrangements for the remuneration of

services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff was temporarily withdrawn from the Department of Health website on Monday 26 March 2007. [135196]

Caroline Flint: The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) is a continuous process that is intended to help policy makers think through and understand the consequences of possible and actual Department interventions in the public, private and third sectors. It is also a tool to enable the Department to weigh and present the relevant evidence on the positive and negative effects of such interventions, including reviewing the impact of policies after they have been implemented.

The RIA that was published in November was a partial RIA. The intent was to give interested parties the opportunity to comment and identify potential unintended consequences of, if necessary, the impact of the proposed changes that were set out in the consultation documents relating to service provision entitled:

1. Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff, published 23 November 2006; closed 2 April 2007.

2. Proposed Amendments to the Regulatory Terms of Service of Pharmacy and Appliance Contractors in relation to Dispensing Items Listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff, published 5 March 2007; closed 2 April 2007. This document was intended to show pharmacy and appliance contractors possible legislative requirements that would be needed as a consequence of the proposals set out in paper 1.

All responses to the partial RIA will be considered carefully and the Department will not be in a position to complete a full and final RIA until such time as the review has been concluded. At that stage a full RIA will be prepared and published.

The Department has no record of the RIA being temporarily withdrawn from the Department's website.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per capita of the population by the NHS in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the north east and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [134846]

Andy Burnham: National health service expenditure per unweighted head is shown in the table. It is only possible to show figures for Gateshead and South Tyneside health authority (HA) area from 1997-98 to 2001-02; after this data shown is for the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area. North East is the area covered by the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, and County Durham and Tees Valley SHAs.

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Gateshead and South Tyneside	681.85	725.15	829.65	892.83	1,010.32	1,094.71	1,202.15	1,351.37	1,479.08
North East	625.81	694.78	820.12	872.82	965.85	989.32	1,198.01	1,345.02	1,464.42
England	607.85	659.76	763.79	825.38	926.13	991.07	1,116.32	1,236.10	1,334.99

Notes

1. Expenditure by strategic health authority area is taken as the total expenditure of the SHA, predecessor HAs and PCTs within the SHA area.

2. Expenditure shown does not include all national health service expenditure within the area. Expenditure on general dental services and pharmaceutical services accounted for by the Dental Practice Board and Prescription Pricing Authority, respectively, are excluded. This expenditure cannot be included within the figures for the individual health bodies as they are not included in commissioner accounts.

Sources

Audited accounts of HAs 1997-98 to 2001-02.
Audited summarisation forms of SHAs 2002-03 to 2005-06.
Audited summarisation schedules of primary care trusts (PCTs) 2000-01 to 2005-06.
Office of National Statistics unweighted population figures.

NHS: Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library the latest findings of the turnaround teams within West Hertfordshire NHS Trust. [124407]

Andy Burnham: Organisations in turnaround may have utilised external turnaround support in the form of professional advisers or turnaround directors to work with them to assist with their turnaround programme. This external turnaround support is often referred to as turnaround teams. Organisations are responsible for the procurement of this external support at a local level and hence any findings from their work will be held at the organisation.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts in Greater London are in deficit; and what the deficit is in each case. [127651]

Andy Burnham: The table shows national health service trusts in London strategic health authority forecasting a year-end deficit at quarter three, 2006-07.

On the basis of results reported at quarter three 2006-07, we believe the NHS is on course to at least deliver a balanced financial position at the end of 2006-07. This strengthened financial position is a clear sign that the NHS is delivering against the strict financial targets we have set.

2006-07 quarter three forecast outturn surplus/(deficit)

NHS trust	*£000*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital NHS trust	(15,741)
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS trust	(9,409)
Bromley Hospitals NHS trust	(12,894)
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS trust	(7,277)
Mayday Healthcare NHS trust	(1,800)

2006-07 quarter three forecast outturn surplus/(deficit)

NHS trust	*£000*
Newham University Hospital NHS trust	(2,516)
North West London Hospitals NHS trust	(25,619)
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS trust	(36,079)
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS trust	(5,363)
St. George's Healthcare NHS trust	(5,500)
The Lewisham Hospital NHS trust	(11,956)
West Middlesex University NHS trust	(4,453)
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS trust	(30,405)

Source:
Department quarter three NHS financial report 2006-07

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of NHS organisations have ended the financial year in *(a)* aggregate and *(b)* in-year deficit in each financial year since 1997-98. [131868]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows the number and percentage of NHS organisations ending the financial year in aggregate deficit:

	HAs/SHAs		*PCTs*		*NHS trusts*	
	Number in deficit	*Percentage in deficit*	*Number in deficit*	*Percentage in deficit*	*Number in deficit*	*Percentage in deficit*
1997-98	48	48	—	—	149	35
1998-99	48	48	—	—	98	24
1999-2000	59	60	—	—	150	40
2000-01	0	0	0	0	39	11
2001-02	0	0	0	0	50	16
2002-03	0	0	21	7	50	18
2003-04	0	0	41	14	65	24
2004-05	1	4	90	30	68	26
2005-06	0	0	108	36	71	30

Note:
Data on the in-year financial position of NHS organisations are not collected centrally. The in-year financial position was only collected for 2006-07.
Source:
Audited National Health Service summarisation schedules

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will list the titles of all studies into NHS deficits *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned by her Department since March 2006; [131870]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the May 2006 study by her Department's Corporate Analytical Team entitled System Change and Financial Imbalance: The Dynamics of Deficits. [131869]

Andy Burnham: In his report on national health service financial performance 2005-06, published in June 2006, the Department's director general of Finance and Investment commissioned further detailed analysis from the Department's Chief Economic Advisor, asking him to consider factors that may have caused the emergence of deficits in 2004-05 and contributed to their geographical distribution. The Chief Economist's report, entitled "Explaining NHS deficits, 2003-04 to 2005-06", was published on the 20 February 2007, and a copy is available in the Library.

Two further internal studies on NHS deficits have been undertaken by the Department since March 2006 and were completed before the Chief Economist published his report. These are:

"System change and financial imbalance: the dynamics of deficits", May 2006. A copy has been placed in the Library.

"Financial management and control", which has already been published as annex E to the chief economist report.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1790-91W, on NHS finance, what the total value of capital-to-revenue transfers made by the NHS was in each year since 1990-91. [131874]

Andy Burnham: The Department was given one cash limit for capital and revenue expenditure in the years prior to 1997-98. Capital delegated expenditure limit (CDEL) and revenue delegated expenditure limit (RDEL) controls were introduced in 1998 and the information requested, regarding transfers from CDEL to RDEL, has been provided in the answer in the 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1790-91W.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 137W, on NHS: finance, what the monthly *(a)* income and *(b)* expenditure was of each NHS organisation in each month since April 2006. [131889]

Andy Burnham: In line with our commitment to publish quarterly financial information, monthly income and expenditure data for each national health service organisation at quarters 1, 2 and 3 2006-07 has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 138W, on NHS: finance, what elements of the weighted capitation formula the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) is reviewing; and whether the recommendations ACRA makes to Ministers on changes to the weighted capitation formula to be published before they are used to inform allocations in 2008-09. [131891]

Andy Burnham: The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation is currently reviewing the weighted-capitation formula used to inform revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs). The review will cover the market forces factor element and the needs element of the formula. The population base used for revenue allocations to PCTs post 2007-08 is also being reviewed. In addition, the review will look again at the issues faced by rural areas.

The date for the announcement of revenue allocations to PCTs post 2007-08, and the timetable for the publication of related documentation, has not yet been determined.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to implement the recommendation made on page seven of her Department's report Explaining NHS deficits, published on her Department's website on 20 February 2007, for further analysis of how strategic health authorities may offset weaknesses in the allocations process without undermining incentives for subsidiary organisations to make efficient decisions. [131893]

Andy Burnham: The Department is considering this recommendation as part of its work on developing the national health service financial regime.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of each primary care trust budget was top-sliced in 2006-07. [131922]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 737W.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what capital expenditure against budget in the NHS was forecast to be in 2006-07 at month nine; [131967]

(2) which NHS organisations are forecasting an underspend against their capital budget in 2006-07; and by how much in each case. [131935]

Andy Burnham: At quarter 3 of 2006-07, the national health service reported total forecast expenditure against capital resource limit of £2,272 million. The total forecast underspend against capital resource limit was £322 million.

Tables indicating which NHS organisations were forecasting an underspend against their capital resource limit at quarter 3, have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to reduce the value of NHS gross deficits in 2007-08. [135870]

Andy Burnham: As outlined in the operating framework, published on 11 December 2006, by the end of the 2006-07 financial year we expect the national health service to return to net financial balance. 2007-08 will be a further year of financial recovery and we will require the NHS to make a net surplus of at least £250 million across NHS trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities (SHAs).

The gross deficit is forecast to reduce in 2006-07 and building on the financial recovery in that year, the financial performance monitoring the SHAs and the Department have in place we expect the gross deficits to reduce further in 2007-08.

NHS: ICT

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of implementing the NHS IT programme has been in *(a)* Surrey primary care trust and *(b)* England; what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the programme; and if she will make a statement. [127577]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Lady to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath (Mr. Godsiff) on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1694-95W; and to those given to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 140W, and on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 588W.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the merits of placing controls on the ability of companies which supply drugs or equipment to the NHS to conduct direct lobbying with patients who receive that service. [128070]

Caroline Flint: There are already controls on companies that supply medicines to the national health service. The Medicines (Advertising) Regulations 1994 prohibit the advertising of prescription only medicines to the public. Any promotion of a prescription only medicine to patients including lobbying activity that may lead to them seeking a prescription from their healthcare provider is likely to fall within this prohibition. Companies may provide non-promotional information, provided they do not promote a specific prescription only medicine.

Products which are defined as medical devices are regulated under the Medical Devices Regulations 2002. The regulations do not cover direct lobbying activities by manufacturers who place medical devices on the market. However, such activities can be dealt with under the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 or the Control of Misleading Advertising Regulations 1998.

NHS: Public Appointments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which body is responsible for setting the criteria for appointments made by the Appointments Commission. [135966]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department agrees the criteria for national health service appointments made by the Appointments Commission.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets on diversity have been set for the appointments made by the Appointments Commission. [135967]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Targets for representation in local national health service appointments are for 50 per cent. of those appointed to be women, 10 per cent. to be from black and minority ethnic groups and 6 per cent. of those appointed to be disabled.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the National Service Framework for *(a)* cancer, *(b)* children, *(c)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, *(d)* coronary heart disease, *(e)* diabetes, *(f)* long-term conditions, *(g)* mental health, *(h)* older people and *(i)* renal services in raising standards of care offered to patients. [135909]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has published a number of progress reports looking at the impact of the national service frameworks (NSFs). These are detailed below and are available in the Library:

"The NHS Cancer Plan" was published in September 2000, and the Department has regularly reviewed progress against it. In October 2003, "The NHS Cancer Plan: Three year progress report, Maintaining the momentum", was published and in October 2004, "The NHS Cancer Plan and the new NHS: Providing a patient-centred service", was published. In addition, in 2005 the National Audit Office (NAO) published "The NHS Cancer Plan: A Progress Report".

"The National Service Framework for children, young people and maternity services" was published in September 2004. A one-year-on report was produced in 2005. A number of a thematic reports concentrating on particular strands of the NSF have also been produced, most recently a report in November 2006 on the progress made so far on the child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) strand.

The chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) NSF is still under development. The Department is planning to publish the COPD NSF at the end of 2008 with the implementation expected in 2009.

The Department has published regular progress reports on the progress made in implementing the coronary heart disease NSF, most recently "Shaping the future—progress report for 2006". In addition, in 2005 the Healthcare Commission published "Getting to the heart of it—Coronary heart disease in England: a review of progress towards the national standards".

"The NSF Four Years On—The Way Ahead: The Local Challenge—Improving Diabetes Services" has been published. It outlines the progress made in the first four years in implementing the NSF for diabetes.

No assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the "Long-term Conditions National Service Framework". There is a 10-year implementation programme for this NSF. The overall pace of change will be according to local priorities and there are no targets. The Department is supporting local health and social care organisations toward implementation through a co-ordinated range of activities.

A comprehensive account of progress made in the first five years of the NSF for mental health is available in the National Director for Mental Health's December 2004 report, "The National Service Framework for Mental Health—Five Years On".

"A New Ambition for Old Age: Next steps in implementing the National Service Framework for Older People" is a refresh of the NSF for older people, and was published in April 2006. This publication was issued at the mid-way point of the 10-year NSF for older people. It built on the progress that had already been made, with older people receiving access to treatment and services in greater numbers than ever before. It sets out the priorities for the next phase of reform under three main themes: dignity in care, system reform for older people with complex needs, and healthy ageing.

The renal NSF has received positive feedback from the renal community, and the standards and quality requirements set out in it are being delivered. Renal services are managing the ever increasing demand for renal replacement therapy, the number of living kidney donations continues to increase and radical change has been delivered in the areas of early detection of kidney disease and end of life care. A progress report is expected to be published in summer 2007.

NHS: Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that all health authorities and trusts produce integrated plans for learning and service development as recommended in the recent report by Professor Fryer. [123833]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 February 2007]*: The Department is currently assessing the responses to "Learning for a Change in Healthcare" and expects to be in a position to propose the next steps for implementation of its recommendations by July 2007. The Department has also already ensured that the service level agreement with the strategic health authorities (SHAs) provides a commitment to

"provide strategic leadership and, where appropriate, investment to encourage the provision of training and development of the work force and to deliver the recommendations of the Leitch report, "Prosperity for all in the global economy—world class skills", and the report of the Widening Participation in Learning Unit, "Learning for a change in Healthcare"."

It also sets a key performance indicator, requiring a

"plan for the development of the wider work force available and published on the SHA website by 1 September 2007. The plan includes opportunities for income generation and matched funding from Learning and Skills Councils."

Obesity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rates of obesity amongst adults were in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust area. [131906]

Caroline Flint: Estimates of prevalence of obesity among adults based on 2000-02 data are presented by primary care organisation (PCO) and this information has been placed in the Library. Primary care organisations represent both primary care trusts, and care trusts.

These estimates represent the prevalence of obesity for any PCO based on population characteristics of that area, together with a statistical model linking population characteristics and obesity levels. The estimates have been generated using a model-based method that combined individual-level data from the Health Survey for England (HSfE) with area-level measures from the 2001 census and from administrative datasets.

The methodology used to produce these estimates is relatively new and as a result may be subject to consultation, modification and further development. In view of this ongoing work the estimates have been published as experimental statistics.

Confidence intervals have been produced to accompany the model-based estimates in order to make the accuracy of the estimates clear. It is important to take into account the variability in the estimates when interpreting them. Therefore, the expected prevalence for a PCO should be viewed in light of its confidence interval rather than just the expected obesity prevalence estimate.

As these are estimates only, we discourage any ranking of the data. The table indicates how the estimated prevalence of each PCO compares with the national estimate for obesity prevalence.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults are (i) obese and (ii) overweight when measured by body mass index according to the Government's most recent health survey figures in (A) Bury St. Edmunds constituency, (B) Suffolk County Council area, (C) the East of England and (D) England. [134664]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the format requested. Data on overweight and obesity prevalence are available from the Health Survey for England (HSE).

Data on the proportion of men and women who are overweight and obese are available from the HSE 2005. Data on the proportion of men and women who are overweight and obese in the East of England Government Office Region (GOR) has been taken from the HSE 2003, as this year included a sample boost. Data on overweight and obesity prevalence for Suffolk county council are not available. However data for the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority for adults are given and combined for the years 2002 to 2004 due to small sample sizes. Information for Bury St. Edmunds constituency's overweight and obesity prevalence is not available. However, estimated overweight and obesity information is given for Suffolk West Primary Care Trust (PCT) in which Bury St. Edmunds falls.

Data for children's overweight and obesity prevalence in England are available from the 2005 HSE. Data for children's overweight and obesity prevalence in the East of England GOR have been combined for the years 2002 to 2004, due to small sample sizes. Information for children's overweight and obesity prevalence is not available below a regional level.

Table 1 shows the proportion of men and women who are overweight and obese in England, in 2005.

Table 2 shows the proportion of men and women who are overweight and obese in the East of England GOR, in 2003.

Table 3 shows the proportion of men and women who are overweight and obese in the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority, in 2002-2004 combined.

Table 4 shows estimates of the prevalence of adults who are obese in Suffolk West PCT, 2000-2002.

Table 5 shows the proportion of boys and girls aged two to 15 who are overweight and obese in England, in 2005.

Table 6 shows the proportion of boys and girls aged two to 15 who are overweight and obese in the East of England GOR, in 2002-2004 combined.

All the tables have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for obesity by the NHS in each year since 1997, broken down by the treatment they received; and what the cost was of providing each treatment in the latest period for which figures are available. [135766]

Caroline Flint: Hospital activity and cost information relating to obesity is presented as follows. Figures have been provided on the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a primary and secondary diagnosis of obesity. Information is also provided on drugs prescribed for the treatment of obesity, including the costs of such drugs. Costs relating specifically to treatment costs for obesity are not available.

Table 1 shows the number of FCEs with a primary and secondary diagnosis of obesity, for the years 1996-97 to 2005-06.

Table 2 shows the number of items, net ingredient cost and the average net ingredient cost per item of drugs for the treatment of obesity prescribed in England and dispensed in the community, for the years 2002 to 2006.

Table 1: Finished consultant episodes[1], by primary or secondary diagnosis[2] of obesity, 1996-97 to 2005-06[3], England

Number

	Primary diagnosis	*Secondary diagnosis*
1996-97	787	21,257
1997-98	781	22,320
1998-99	1,049	23,633
1999-2000	1,073	24,480
2000-01	1,170	25,947
2001-02	1,121	27,349
2002-03	1,406	34,701
2003-04	1,856	40,060
2004-05	2,185	49,187
2005-06	2,749	62,708

[1] An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider.
[2] ICD-10 code E66 has been used as a diagnosis for obesity.
[3] Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, HES. The Information Centre.

Table 2: Number of items, net ingredient cost and average net ingredient cost per item of drugs for the treatment of obesity prescribed[1] in England and dispensed in the community, 2002 to 2006, England

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Prescription Items (Thousand)					
Orlistat	540	484	492	645	774
Sibutramine	196	203	208	226	263
Total[2]	737	688	699	871	1,060
Net Ingredient Cost (£000)					
Orlistat	23,401	21,036	21,391	27,020	32,476
Sibutramine	7,752	8,458	9,314	10,984	13,654
Total[2]	31,203	29,532	30,706	38,004	47,541
Net Ingredient Cost per item (£)					
Orlistat	43	43	44	42	42

Table 2: Number of items, net ingredient cost and average net ingredient cost per item of drugs for the treatment of obesity prescribed[1] in England and dispensed in the community, 2002 to 2006, England

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Sibutramine	39	42	45	49	52
Total[2]	42	43	44	44	45

[1] Includes prescriptions prescribed by GPs, nurses, pharmacists and others in England and dispensed in the community in the UK. Prescriptions written in hospitals/clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data.
[2] Includes 'other' drugs for the treatment if obesity which include Mazindol, Rimonabant, Phentermine and Diethylpropion Hydrochloride.
Source:
Prescribing Analyses and Cost (PACT) from the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority (PPD of the BSA).

Obesity: Children

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* one to five, *(b)* six to 10, *(c)* 11 to 15 and *(d)* 16 to 18 years were classified as (i) obese and (ii) overweight in each of the last five years in (A) England, (B) each region and (C) each London borough. [132141]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the exact format requested. Information on overweight and obesity is available from the Health Survey for England (HSE). Information on childhood overweight and obesity prevalence broken down by age groups and by region has been combined for the years 2002 to 2004, due to small sample sizes. Also data are not available for one-year-olds. Information for young adults overweight and obesity prevalence is only available for the age range 16 to 24, and is not available by Government Office Region. Information for London boroughs is also not available, as the data are not sufficiently robust at this level.

Table one shows overweight and obesity prevalence among children and young adults aged two to 10, 11 to 15 and 16 to 24, in England for the years 2000 to 2005.

Table two shows overweight and obesity prevalence among children aged two to five, six to 10 and 11 to 15, for England, 2002 to 2004 combined.

Table three shows overweight and obesity prevalence among children aged two to 10 and 11 to 15, by Government Office Region for the years 2002 to 2004 combined.

Table 1: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children and young adults, by gender, 2000 to 2005, England

Percentage

	2000	2001	2002	2003[1]	2004[1]	2005[1]	2003[2]	2004[2]	2005[2]
Boys									
2-10									
Overweight	13.6	15.6	13.3	14.7	14.2	16.5	14.6	14.6	16.1
Obese	12.2	13.5	15.2	14.9	16.2	16.6	15.1	15.9	16.9
11-15									
Overweight	10.0	14.1	14.4	14.4	12.8	14.8	14.5	12.8	15.0
Obese	18.8	18.8	19.8	20.4	23.7	20.5	20.0	24.2	20.4
2-15									
Overweight	12.4	15.0	13.7	14.6	13.7	15.9	14.6	13.9	15.7
Obese	14.5	15.5	16.9	17.0	18.9	18.0	17.0	19.2	18.3
16-24									
Overweight	17.8	27.1	20.9	23.2	23.1	24.3	22.5	23.1	24.1
Obese	9.3	9.5	9.2	8.6	8.2	7.6	8.6	7.9	6.9
Girls									
2-10									
Overweight	11.6	14.0	13.1	13.4	14.2	12.2	13.4	14.8	12.2
Obese	11.8	12.7	15.8	12.5	11.9	16.7	12.4	12.8	16.8
11-15									
Overweight	14.4	17.5	15.1	16.0	19.4	14.0	16.4	19.3	14.1
Obese	18.1	17.7	19.2	21.9	26.2	20.6	22.1	26.7	20.8
2-15									
Overweight	12.7	15.2	13.9	14.4	16.3	12.8	14.6	16.6	12.9
Obese	14.2	14.5	17.1	16.1	17.8	18.1	16.1	18.5	18.3
16-24									
Overweight	22.1	22.3	20.7	18.8	25.2	20.5	18.3	24.1	19.5
Obese	8.6	11.9	11.3	13.3	12.2	11.2	13.1	12.1	10.8
Bases (weighted)									
Boys									
2-10	570	1,035	2,364	876	416	695	878	379	664
11-15	306	618	1,381	533	230	382	574	245	438
2-15	877	1,653	3,745	1,410	645	1,077	1,452	624	1,102
16-24	400	757	1,553	686	255	367	960	418	491

Table 1: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children and young adults, by gender, 2000 to 2005, England

Percentage

	2000	2001	2002	2003[1]	2004[1]	2005[1]	2003[2]	2004[2]	2005[2]
Girls									
2-10	523	1,094	2,290	897	343	724	858	346	674
11-15	318	605	1,346	547	236	411	535	235	417
2-15	841	1,699	3,636	1,444	579	1,135	1,393	581	1,091
16-24	362	856	1,719	788	294	385	912	378	432

[1] From 2003 data were also weighted for non response. Data weighted for child selection only are provided for consistency with previous years.
[2] Weighted
Source:
Health Survey for England: Updating of trend tables to include 2005 data. The Information Centre

Table 2: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children, by age, 2002-04[1] England

Percentage

	2002-04
Aged 2-5	
Overweight	14.1
Obese	12.3
Aged 6-10	
Overweight	13.2
Obese	16.6
Aged 11-15	
Overweight	15.0
Obese	20.5
Bases (unweighted)[2]	
Aged 2-5	2,540
Aged 6-10	3,919
Aged 11-15	3,977
Bases (weighted)[3]	
Aged 2-5	2,784
Aged 6-10	4,403
Aged 11-15	4,272

[1] Data are aggregated over the three years, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to achieve a sufficiently large sample for analysis at this level
[2] Unweighted figures are raw unadjusted figures
[3] Weighted figures are adjusted for child selection only and not non-response
Source:
Health Survey for England 2002. The Department of Health
Health Survey for England 2003. The Department of Health
Health Survey for England 2004. The Information Centre

Table 3: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children by Government Office Region (GOR) and age, 2002-04[1] England

Percentage

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East England	London	South East	South West
Aged 2-10									
Overweight	13.8	12.9	15.4	16.4	14.1	12.9	12.3	12.5	12.8
Obese	16.4	14.4	13.6	14.8	17.4	13.4	18.8	13.9	12.7
Aged 11-15									
Overweight	13.7	14.8	15.3	11.9	13.1	13.7	17.0	17.1	16.1
Obese	24.0	20.8	20.0	20.2	24.3	18.7	22.5	18.1	18.3
Aged 2-15									
Overweight	13.8	13.6	15.4	14.7	13.8	13.2	14.1	14.2	14.0
Obese	19.5	16.8	15.8	16.9	19.9	15.3	20.1	15.4	14.8
Bases (unweighted)[2]									
Aged 2-10	372	891	700	588	682	743	791	1,041	651
Aged 11-15	250	584	406	366	417	436	470	636	412
Aged 2-15	622	1,475	1,106	954	1,099	1,179	1,261	1,677	1,063
Bases (weighted for selection only)[3]									
Aged 2-10	399	1,021	780	641	768	808	881	1,162	725
Aged 11-15	273	634	424	395	447	462	517	682	438
Aged 2-15	673	1,655	1,204	1,036	1,216	1,271	1,398	1,844	1,163

[1] Data aggregated over the three years, 2002, 2003, and 2004 to achieve a sufficiently large sample for analysis at this level.
[2] Unweighted figures are raw unadjusted figures.
[3] Weighted figures are adjusted for child selection only and not non-response.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2002. The Department of Health
Health Survey for England 2003. The Department of Health
Health Survey for England 2004. The Information Centre

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many bookings were made through the Choose and Book system in each month since July 2004 *(a)* through the directly bookable service and *(b)* through the indirectly bookable service (i) in total and (ii) broken down by primary care trust; and what percentage of the total number of GP referrals made in each month these figures represent; [123070]

(2) how many bookings were made through the Choose and Book system through the *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly bookable service in each month since July 2005, broken down by geographical area. [127824]

Caroline Flint: The information has been placed in the Library.

Pharmacy: Internet

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many regulated UK-based internet pharmacies there are; and what estimate she has made of the number of unregulated internet pharmacies based in the UK. [134101]

Caroline Flint: The sale and supply of pharmacy and prescription only medicines for human use via the internet must be made in accordance with the Medicines Act 1968. There are approximately 12,684 registered retail pharmacies in Great Britain but not all will provide internet services. Registered pharmacies are not currently obliged to inform the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain if they provide internet pharmacy services, however, to date, 107 pharmacies have volunteered that information. The Society is piloting an internet pharmacy logo designed to assist members of the public in identifying bona fide registered pharmacy premises providing professional services via the internet. There are currently 20 participants involved in the pilot. After a review of the pilot it is intended to extend the logo to all registered retail pharmacies which provide internet services. The Society's inspectorate monitors and inspects all retail pharmacy premises currently on the register and that extends to internet pharmacy services. There is no available estimate of the number of unregulated internet pharmacies based in the United Kingdom. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency routinely monitor medicines being offered for sale on the internet by means of specialist information technology equipment which has been installed and configured to identify websites dealing in medicines illegally. Any suspected illegal activity is referred for investigation.

Photosensitivity

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the impact on the health of people with light sensitivity conditions of phasing out the sale of incandescent light bulbs; and if she will make a statement. [133880]

Caroline Flint: The Department is aware of the need to consider health implications in the event of incandescent light bulbs being phased out. Departmental officials have already had discussions with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and other Government Departments that have an interest in these matters.

Prescriptions

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice or guidance her Department issues to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* general practitioners on the amount of drugs prescribed to patients and the duration of prescriptions; and whether that advice or guidance has changed in the last 12 months. [132820]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not issued formal guidance to primary care trusts or general practitioners on the amount of drugs to be prescribed to patients or on the duration of prescriptions. However, the National Prescribing Centre published advice in 2000 that was agreed with the Department and outlined factors to be taken into account in prescription duration. Copies of this advice have been placed in the Library.

Prescriptions: ICT

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions have been issued using the electronic prescriptions service in each quarter since it became operational; and what estimate she has made of the percentage of prescription items dispensed in the community that were conducted via the electronic prescription service over the same period. [131965]

Caroline Flint: The information is in the table.

Quarter	*Prescription messages issued*	*Number of messages downloaded for dispensing*	*Number dispensed*
2005			
1[1]	4,049	1,391	1,268
2	9,860	3,726	3,608
3	27,120	3,959	3,798
4	184,259	6,354	5,780
2006			
1	501,743	6,166	5,879
2	1,364,741	15,173	12,279
3	3,262,093	33,657	28,737
4	4,509,230	76,905	62,814

[1] From Monday 21 February 2005.

The imbalance between the number of prescription messages issued and the number dispensed is due to a number of factors. Most general practitioner (GP) system suppliers have achieved technical compliance with the electronic prescription service earlier than the pharmacy system suppliers, resulting in more GP practices having used the service for a longer period of time than pharmacies. In addition, the geographical distribution of bar-coded prescriptions available to pharmacies has been relatively limited. This is now changing and over 1,070 GP practices have achieved the technical capacity to issue bar-coded prescriptions within the last four weeks. As the volume of bar-coded prescriptions spreads geographically, there will be a related increase in the number of prescription dispensed using the electronic prescription service.

Information is not held centrally in a format that would make it possible to make a reliable estimate of

the percentage of prescription items dispensed in the community that were conducted via the electronic prescription service over the same period.

Primary Health Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the National Director for Primary Care was first asked to produce his report "Keeping it Personal: clinical case for change", published on 5 February. [123135]

Andy Burnham: The National Director for Primary Care's report "Keeping it Personal: clinical case for change" was commissioned on 6 December 2006.

Psychiatry: Drugs

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies she has evaluated on the long-term efficacy of psychiatric drugs used on children; what plans she has for further such investigations; and if she will make a statement. [133863]

Caroline Flint: Only Fluoxetine is authorised for paediatric use. The Medicine and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has evaluated studies of up to 12 months duration with the product Prozac (Fluoxetine) in paediatric patients and considered that efficacy was demonstrated and the risk/benefit was positive. The MHRA is not aware of other studies for the evaluation of long-term efficacy of psychiatric drugs in children.

Ritalin

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on methylphenidate drugs in each year between 1997 and 2006. [132833]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the table.

£ million

	Net ingredient cost of prescriptions for methylphenidate hydrochloride dispensed in primary care	*Estimated cost of methylphenidate hydrochloride dispensed in hospitals*
1997	1.6	Not held
1998	2.4	Not held
1999	3.1	Not held
2000	3.8	Not held
2001	4.3	0.3
2002	6.5	0.7
2003	10.1	0.9
2004	12.5	1.0
2005	14.2	1.1
2006	17.2	Not yet available

Notes:
1. Net ingredient cost is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.
2. The estimated cost of the medicines at NHS list price and not necessarily the price the hospital paid.

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Ritalin: Labelling

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the labelling of Methylphenidate-based medication was last updated in accordance with regulatory requirements; if she will review the adequacy of the regulations relating to such labelling; and if she will make a statement. [134182]

Caroline Flint: Methylphenidate (trade names Ritalin, Concerta XL and Equasym XL) is a stimulant drug licensed for children over six years of age as part of a comprehensive treatment programme for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Such treatment should be under the supervision of a specialist in childhood behavioural disorders. Methylphenidate's safety in routine clinical practice is closely monitored by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in conjunction with other European regulatory authorities.

Since methylphenidate was first authorised in the United Kingdom, a number of changes have been made to the product information for prescribers and patients to better reflect its emerging safety profile. The last revision, in November 2006, was to the product information for Concerta, to advise about serious cardiovascular adverse effects and to recommend that methylphenidate should not be used in children or adolescents with known serious structural cardiac abnormalities. Steps are being taken to ensure consistency of information for all methylphenidate products.

The longer term safety of the use of methylphenidate is kept under careful review within Europe. The UK, on behalf of Europe, is in discussions with the pharmaceutical companies who manufacture methylphenidate products in order to develop risk management plans, which include the conduct of new research to better characterise and further investigate the safety profile of methylphenidate. As new data emerge they will be carefully evaluated by the MHRA and where necessary current prescribing advice will be updated to reflect the new evidence.

The marketing authorisation holder of any medicine is legally obliged to keep their product information up to date with all current developments, and respond to requests from regulatory agencies. European regulations governing medicinal products were amended in November 2005 and included provisions for improved monitoring of drug safety and quality of information for patients.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pupils in Darlington schools and nurseries receive free fruit. [135014]

Caroline Flint: There are 4,275 pupils attending 28 schools in the Darlington area that are currently participating in the school fruit and vegetable scheme.

Sight Impaired

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to improve the availability of recreational reading material for people with visual impairments. [133829]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

A number of Government Departments have undertaken specific initiatives to improve access to and the availability of recreational reading material for people with visual impairments:

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is working with publishers, booksellers and other sector stakeholders with a view to improving the amount of book material available in accessible formats for blind and visually impaired people. The project has examined:

- the feasibility of using electronic files from publishers to reduce production costs and enable an increase in books produced;
- the feasibility of making accessible books available through mainstream booksellers;
- Braille, large print and daisy audio products;
- Business models for a sustainable growth in accessible products.

It is anticipated that the project will now proceed to a market test, funded by industry and RNIB.

In addition the Government are encouraging publishers to consider the needs of visually impaired people in the application of digital protection measures (DPM) to their e-book titles. Some DPM's can prevent screen readers providing a synthetic voice option to consumers.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has supported the 'Revealweb' project—an on-line resource to enable visually impaired people and their helpers to easily locate available material in alternative formats. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) are working to link Revealweb to the public libraries' interlibrary loans system to improve access to the public library network for visually impaired people.

The Government supported the Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002 which removes the need for organisations and individuals to request permission before they reproduce copies in accessible formats, and enables accessible versions of published works to be made under licence.

The Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) receives an annual grant from the Department for Education and Science (DfES) of £200,000 to support the UK production of embossed literature and to make it available in the UK for the benefit of visually-impaired people.

Smoking

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated for advertising the implementation of the smoking ban in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England and *(c)* Northern Ireland; and if she will make a statement. [131989]

Caroline Flint: In May, the Department will begin a national and regional advertising campaign in England, targeted at businesses and the general public, to communicate the key aspects of smokefree legislation that will be implemented on 1 July 2007. A budget of £4.8 million has been allocated to the campaign in this financial year.

The implementation of smokefree legislation in Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter.

Special Advisers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 872W, on special advisers, whether her special advisers have given any notice of any external employment in the last 12 months. [131949]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is nothing further to add to the answer given on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 872W.

Taxi Contracts

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value of taxi contracts entered into by the NHS was in each year since 2000. [115290]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Vaccination

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adverse reactions to vaccines were reported between 1982 and 1985; and whether there were any deaths attributed to vaccination in each year. [135183]

Caroline Flint: The table lists the numbers of reports of suspected adverse reactions (ADRs) to vaccines submitted to the Medicines Division of the Department of Health, the responsible authority prior to the Medicines Control Agency, and current Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), via the yellow card scheme between 1 January 1982 and 31 December 1985.

It is important to note that the report of a suspected ADR via the yellow card scheme and inclusion in this list does not necessarily mean that the event was caused by the vaccine. Suspected ADRs are suspicions that a vaccine may have caused an event and not proof of a causal association. For these events with a fatal outcome, causality with vaccination has not been proven.

Vaccine	*Number of suspected ADRs reports where a vaccine was indicated as a suspected drug*[1]	*Number of suspected ADRs reports with a fatal outcome*[1]
Diphtheria	319	0
Tetanus	382	0
Pertussis	184	2
Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP)	552	13
Diphtheria and tetanus (DT)	479	4
Measles	253	0
Rubella	82	0
Oral polio	46	3
Influenza	89	5
Pneumococcal	22	0
BCG	130	0

Vaccine	Number of suspected ADRs reports where a vaccine was indicated as a suspected drug[1]	Number of suspected ADRs reports with a fatal outcome[1]
Typhoid	151	0
Cholera	28	0
Hepatitis B	33	0
Rabies	16	0
Yellow Fever	7	0
Tick Borne encephalitis	2	0

[1] Reports in each column should not be added to derive a cumulative total as in many individual cases more than one vaccine may be co-suspect.

Websites

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many UK-based websites breached medicines legislation in each of the last 10 years; and what enforcement action has been taken. [129893]

Caroline Flint: In the United Kingdom, there are strict legal controls on the retail sale, supply and advertisement of medicinal products. These controls apply without distinction to medicines sold or supplied through internet transactions and mail order.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) takes the view that internet and mail order sale and supply of medicines are acceptable provided these legal requirements are met. However, any website brought to their attention for breaching regulations will be investigated.

Records held by MHRA show that from 1 April 1997 to date, out of 294 cases opened involving internet activity, 227 of these were found to be in breach of medicines legislation.

MHRA will initially aim to achieve compliance with regulatory requirements, sites are contacted and given advice on UK statutory obligations. Although MHRA has no powers to force closure of websites, internet service providers are contacted concerning illegal activity and can close down offending sites. However, if compliance cannot be achieved, further action can be taken including a criminal prosecution brought through the criminal courts and civil proceedings.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 15 May 2007

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the ratio is of Defence Dental Service dentists to armed forces personnel; and what it was in each year since 1997. [133198]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The following table shows the numbers of uniformed Defence Dental Service (DDS) dentists (as at 1 April in each year) against armed forces manning (as at 1 January in each year) from 1997 to 2006. The figures for 2007 have yet to be confirmed. The figures (including ratios) have been rounded to the nearest 10.

	Service dentists	*Armed forces manning*	*Ratio*
1997	250	210,820	1:840
1998	250	210,140	1:840
1999	250	208,640	1:830
2000	250	207,620	1:830
2001	250	205,650	1:820
2002	270	204,680	1:760
2003	250	206,920	1:830
2004	250	207,020	1:830
2005	250	201,100	1:800
2006	250	195,850	1:780

Sources:
1. Dentists—DMSD Manning returns.
2. Armed Forces Manning—DASA published figures. Numbers include those in training.

In addition, the DDS currently employs 38 full-time and 10 part-time Civilian Dental Practitioners (CDPs). Including the full-time CDPs in the 2006 total would bring the ratio for that year down to 1:680.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the salary is of each of the staff working in the household of the *(a)* General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, *(b)* Commander in Chief Land, *(c)* Adjutant General and *(d)* Chief of the General Staff. [134233]

Derek Twigg: The current salary range for Ministry of Defence staff working in the households of the Chief of General Staff, the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, the Commander in Chief Land and the Adjutant General are shown in the table.

Salary details for those civilian staff that are employed by contractors are being withheld for reasons of commercial confidentiality:

Rank	*Role*	*Salary range (£)*
CGS		
Colour Sergeant	House Manager	27,000 to 34,000
Corporal	House Orderly	15,000 to 26,000
GOC NI		
Sergeant	House Sergeant	27,000 to 34,000
Corporal	Cook	15,000 to 26,000
Civilian	Gardener	13,000 to 17,000
Civilian	Cleaner	12,000 to 16,000
CinC Land		
Corporal (Lance Sergeant)	House Sergeant	27,000 to 34,000
Private (Guardsman)	House Orderly	15,000 to 26,000
Civilian Contractor	Chef	
Civilian Contractor	Gardener	
Civilian Contractor	Cleaner	
Civilian Contractor	Assistant Cleaner	
Adjutant General		
Sergeant	House Sergeant	27,000 to 34,000
Civilian Contractor	Gardener	
Civilian Contractor	Cleaner	

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people took sick leave for stress in his Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135476]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows the number of Ministry of Defence civilian staff who have had a period of sickness absence caused by anxiety, depression and stress (Mental and Behavioural Disorders ICD10 category) in the calendar year of 2006 and the percentage of the total staff number this represents. The MOD does not have a specific sickness absence code for stress.

Calendar year	*Number of staff*	*Percentage of total staff*
2006	4,090	4.9

Notes:
1. This includes all permanent and casual non-industrial and industrial civilian personnel, but excludes trading fund, locally engaged civilian and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel.
2. Number of staff has been rounded to the nearest 10 and the percentage of total staff has been rounded to the nearest decimal point.

International Security Assistance Force

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 154W, on the International Security Assistance Force, how much the NATO common fund was in each year since 2001. [133166]

Des Browne: NATO Common Funding has been available to the International Security Assistance Force since 2003 only; prior to that all expenditure was borne nationally.

The level of NATO common funding from 2003 is:

	£ million
2003	19.8
2004	73.9
2005	65.4
2006	70.1
2007	[1]48.2

[1] Approved budget.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the provision of CAT scanners in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [136640]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The Defence Medical Services have had a computerised (Axial) tomography (CT) scanner operational in Iraq since March 2005. Earlier this year it was re-commissioned after being moved from Shaibah logistic base to the Contingent operating base at Basrah. It was working at initial operating capability (IOC) in early February this year, and by the end of that month was at full operational capability (FOC) with the addition of the telemedicine link capability back to the UK. The link enables experts in the UK to advise doctors locally about detailed diagnosis and treatment.

In Afghanistan, a CT scanner was commissioned at Camp Bastion and working at IOC by April this year. It is due to achieve FOC, when the telemedicine link capability is completed during May 2007.

Iraq: Police

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in training the Iraqi police. [136649]

Des Browne: At present, approximately 135,000 Iraqi Police Service personnel have been trained and equipped by coalition forces. The emphasis is now on developing capability rather than further increasing numbers, particularly in the key areas of leadership, intelligence and forensics, which will help enable the Iraqi authorities to take responsibility for their own security.

Territorial Waters: Iran

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes there have been to the level of patrolling by the Royal Navy in the Persian Gulf since the seizure of Royal Navy personnel by the Iranians. [136823]

Des Browne *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* Boarding operations were suspended following the seizure of Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel on 23 March 2007. As outlined in my written ministerial statement of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 21WS, an incremental return to full boarding operations in all areas commenced on 24 April 2007. This process is not yet complete.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely effect on development of separating the security and reconstruction roles of the provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [137142]

Hilary Benn: The UK-led provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in the Helmand province of southern Afghanistan has a comprehensive approach to security and reconstruction, based on the joint UK plan for Helmand. This comprehensive approach is essential to create the conditions necessary for both security and for long-term development. The PRT includes military and civilian representatives from Estonia, Denmark, the United States and the UK. From the UK, DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit (PCRU), work together with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to deliver the four strands of the joint UK plan for Helmand; security, governance, social and economic development, and counter-narcotics.

The closely integrated civil/military structure currently used by the UK is widely regarded as a model of good practice to support the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) in establishing a secure environment where reconstruction and development can take place. There are no plans to separate the security and reconstruction roles of the UK PRT and therefore we have not assessed the potential impact of this.

Africa: Life Expectancy

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what action his Department is taking to increase life expectancy at birth in Africa. [137088]

Hilary Benn: DFID is working to increase life expectancy through a variety of activities including support for the provision of clean water and sanitation, large-scale immunisation and insecticide-treated bednets programmes and addressing related maternal mortality. Safe hygiene practice and improved access to clean water and sanitation are also vital for reducing child mortality. DFID produced the Water Action Plan in March 2004, and we will double our spending on water and sanitation to £95 million by 2007-08.

In Nigeria we are providing £20 million to rebuild routine immunisation services and a further £80 million for malaria control. In Tanzania we continue to provide support for the social marketing of bednets as part of the national Insecticide-Treated Net Programme, and in Sierra Leone we are designing a new long-term Child Survival and Maternal Health Programme with the World Bank and national partners. In Malawi we are contributing £100 million over six years to the Government's essential health and human resource programme, and significant progress has been made on child survival through immunisation and malaria programmes. Similarly in Zambia we are major donors to the National Strategic Health Plan, which includes a focus on improving child health through expanded vaccination, curative care and

improving access to services. In Kenya we are supporting a sector-wide approach for the long-term strengthening of the health system and improved service delivery. We have funded the development of a number of plans in human resources, procurement and financial management. We are also concentrating much support on the prevention of malaria, the major cause of mortality in children in Kenya. By the end of 2007 we will have spent more than £45 million on insecticide-treated bednets and distributed 11 million nets, saving approximately 167,000 lives. DFID is indirectly supporting South Africa's efforts to reverse under-five mortality rates through the £30 million, five-year HIV/AIDS Multi-Sectoral Support Programme (MSP). Our support to the Maternal Child and Women Health Unit in the Department of Health supports research in the area of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), the development of fertility options policy, and research on barriers to antiretroviral uptake among children and pregnant women.

DFID continues to provide strong support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria (GFATM), and also played a central role in the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm) which issued its first bonds in November 2006. This will disburse $4 billion over the next 10 years and is estimated will save 10 million lives, including five million children before 2015. DFID also recently pledged long-term support to UNITAID, the International Drug Purchase Facility, starting with a £15 million contribution in 2007, to ensure poor countries benefit from lower prices for drugs to treat AIDS, TB and malaria.

Haiti: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on *(a)* reducing the level of poverty in Haiti and *(b)* cancelling Haiti's international debt; and if he will make a statement. [136408]

Mr. Thomas: Recognising that Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, DFID provides support through the wider international community's efforts to help lift Haiti out of poverty. Last year Haiti became a member of the Caribbean Development bank and in recognition of this DFID increased its contribution to the bank's low-interest poverty-focused funds to just over £23 million, £3 million of which was earmarked to projects in Haiti. DFID officials recently met with four senior officials from the Haitian Central bank and the Ministry of Finance to discuss the type of poverty-reducing support and projects they would like the bank to provide in the future.

Most recently we have placed a DFID staff member in the Canadian Development Agency based in Port-au-Prince. The objective of this post is to improve the effectiveness of the international community's development assistance to Haiti, to coordinate the UK response to any humanitarian disaster and to facilitate the integration of disaster risk reduction activities into development and humanitarian programmes. The latter is key to reducing poverty in the long term as Haiti is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as floods, which hit the poor the hardest.

We believe we will have greatest impact on the international development effort in Haiti by helping to improve the effectiveness of the large amounts of foreign aid that are already available. Much of this comes from regional and international institutions such as the World Bank, European Commission, United Nations and Inter-American Development bank, of which the UK contributes sizeable shares to each. The weakness of Haiti's institutions, including the administration, and the country's history of turbulence means it is vital that all donors coordinate their activities and align their assistance behind the Government's own objectives for reducing poverty.

The UK supports debt cancellation for Haiti as soon as possible. Haiti began to receive interim debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative in November last year. Its debt service payments have therefore already been considerably reduced. Haiti is now making progress towards completion point of the HIPC initiative when it will receive $140 million worth of debt cancellation (in 2005 net present value terms). At HIPC completion point, Haiti will also qualify for 100 per cent. debt cancellation at the World Bank and IMF under the multilateral debt relief initiative (MDRI) worth a further $243 million (in 2005 net present value terms), as well as additional debt cancellation at the Inter-American Development bank (IADB).

Iran: Deportation

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Iranians deported from Iran to Afghanistan in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the humanitarian implications of these deportations. [137089]

Hilary Benn: According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) figures, between 21 April and 9 May a total of 54,187 unregistered Afghan refugees have been deported through the crossing points of Islam Qala (Herat province)—19,311—and Zaranj (Nimroz province)—34,876. An additional estimated total of 487 families have arrived in the Farah province.

The deportations are taking place as part of a concerted drive by the Iranian authorities to curb illegal migration from Afghanistan to Iran. As such it can be anticipated that they will continue for several more months. The current deportation exercise seems to be concentrating on Iran's south-eastern provinces, notably Sistan Baluchistan. To date UNHCR has not identified any significant incidence of registered refugees being deported from Iran.

UNHCR reports that in general, the local authorities in Zaranj (Nimroz province) and Islam Qala (Herat province) are coping adequately with the influx. Sizeable deportations through these border crossings have been a regular occurrence for many years. The deportees are being accommodated in public buildings and tents. Water, sanitation facilities, and food are being provided.

The humanitarian situation in the Farah province is of more concern. A recent joint mission of UNHCR, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to Farah, established that families are being deported through an unofficial crossing point at Shaghali in the Farah province. They are currently being housed in

temporary construction sites. It has been agreed that UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) will provide initial assistance to the deportees of one month's food rations, non-food items, and family kits. The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) is also undertaking a mission to the border areas to collect information from the deportees on human rights and protection issues and to compile a report.

While DFID is not directly engaged in providing humanitarian assistance to refugees in the Herat, Nimroz and Farah provinces, we are in close contact with UN agencies, and continue to monitor the situation closely.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will reconsider his Department's decision and use his discretion not to slaughter the bull Shambo, part of the herd of sacred cattle at the Hindu temple of Skanda Vale; what his policy is on the enforcement of animal welfare legislation towards cattle in Hindu herds maintained at Hindu temples; and if he will make a statement. [136672]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The herd my hon. Friend refers to is located in Wales. This is a devolved issue and is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Departments: Computers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136095]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA places a high importance on energy efficiency measures and seeks to make savings wherever possible.

(a) Instructions to staff have been provided in a number of ways. As part of our 'big switch' energy efficiency campaign at the start of 2006, we combined online and poster messaging to inform and change staff behaviour to make sure all computers and other electrical equipment is switched off. Seasonal messages are broadcast on DEFRA's intranet to ensure staff turn off equipment over holiday periods. Information and instructions on energy saving measures appear on DEFRA's intranet and there are stickers on computer screens reminding staff to switch off their monitors.

(b) DEFRA is currently working on installing 'night watchman' technology with IBM, which will provide an automatic shut down operation for computers at a set time every evening. Energy saving measures are in place on printers which switch to standby mode after a 20-minute period of inactivity.

Departments: Official Visits

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* destination and *(b)* purpose was of each overseas visit outside the European Union undertaken by staff in his Department in each of the last three months. [133312]

Barry Gardiner: From information held centrally, the core-Department's overseas visits outside the European Union in the last three months are listed as follows:

Country/purpose of visit	*Number of trips*
Australia	
Clean Coal Conference and UK and Australia Energy Conference	1
UNFCCC WORKSHOP	2
Canada	
Canadian Food Inspection Agency Meeting	1
Carbon Capture and Sequestration Meetings	2
Cayman Islands	
Legislative advice to Cayman Islands Government on Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	1
China	
International Maritime Organisation Regional Workshop and Seminar on Ship Recycling	1
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) meeting	1
UNFCCC WORKSHOP	2
Iceland	
Climate Change Seminar	1
India	
7th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit	10
India/UK workshop to launch phase II of the UK/ India project on impacts and adaptation	2
Indonesia	
ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) review	1
Japan	
EU Representation at UNFCCC Discussion	4
Kenya	
United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council—Nairobi	8
Mexico	
UK-Mexico Sustainable Development Dialogue meeting	2
Norway	
EU and Norway meeting on sandeel and North Norway haddock	2
North Sea Basin Task Force and OSPAR meeting	1
PECCOE (Permanent Committee on Control and Enforcement) meeting (sub committee of NEAFC (North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission))	1

Country/purpose of visit	Number of trips
Sweden	
Working group meeting for DG Environment Floods Action Plan stakeholder group	1
WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee meetings	2
Switzerland	
Preparatory meeting for International Forum on Chemical Safety meeting	3
Thailand	
IPCC meeting for Working Group 3 of the IPCC 4th Assessment Report	2
United States	
UK representation at the Technical Working Group of the Global Bioenergy Partnership	1
Attendance at the Waste Management Symposia in Tuscon, Arizona	1
Climate Security Conference 2007	1
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15) Meeting	2
EU Representation at UNFCCC Discussion	
Health Effects Institute Annual Conference	1
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development	1
International Preparatory Meeting on the UNCSD negotiations on climate change and energy	7
International Whaling Commission meeting	2
IPCC Working Group	1
Lobbying the executive directors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) on the UK position on the clean energy investment framework (CEIF)	1
OECD Workshop	1
Responding to/dialogue with academic critics of the Stern Review—Washington DC and Yale University	2
To attend the Coalition of Rainforest Nations	1
To take forward the UK-Mexico Sustainable Development Dialogue	1
UK-Mexico Sustainable Development Dialogue meeting	1

Departments: Public Participation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the guidelines under which his Department sets a reduced time limit for initial responses to public consultations. [136424]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA adheres to the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Consultation. In line with that, except in exceptional circumstances, all written consultations last for a period of at least 12 weeks.

The Cabinet Office Code sets out the following reasons why a consultation may last for a period of less than 12 weeks: timetables are set out in statute; they are governed by EU or other international processes; they are tied to the Budget or other annual financial cycles; they are about measures where there is a health and safety or security dimension; or some other urgent requirement for the introduction of new measures. In addition, where re-consultation takes place on the basis of amendments made in the light of earlier consultation, a shorter period may also be appropriate. In DEFRA, proposals for a consultation period of less than 12 weeks are dealt with on a case by case basis and require approval by Ministers.

DEFRA Ministers take the code very seriously and only give permission for a reduced consultation period where there is a clear case for doing so.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account is taken of membership of former agricultural assistance schemes in the criteria for qualification for the environmental *(a)* entry, *(b)* organic and *(c)* higher level stewardship schemes; how many applicants for environmental stewardship were members of former schemes; how much was allocated to (i) environmental stewardship and (ii) former such schemes in 2006-07; how many farmers were members of (1) environmental stewardship and (2) former such schemes in 2006-07; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding for environmental stewardship to meet demand. [135749]

Barry Gardiner: Since October 2006, Environmental Stewardship is administered by Natural England on behalf of DEFRA. The terms and conditions are set out in the respective handbooks for the schemes. Membership of a former scheme is not part of the qualifying criteria and all applications are considered against the entry requirements.

The Government are, however, anxious to encourage those who have been delivering significant environmental benefits under earlier schemes to continue to do so within the opportunities now available. Members of former schemes may also be more aware of the potential of the current schemes and hence more likely to apply. The applications database does not record information about previous scheme membership.

The Rural Development Programme for the period 2006 to 2013 more than doubles the previous funding available for agri-environment schemes to £2.9 billion, and will allow for substantial additional uptake. During 2006-07 the following expenditure was committed to agri-environment schemes.

Scheme	Amount (£ million)
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	63.6
Countryside Stewardship	108.8
Entry Level	95.3
Organic Entry Level	15.6
Higher Level	20

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people took sick leave for stress in his Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135461]

Mrs. McGuire: The absence data are taken from the Departments sick absence management report as at 31 March 2007 and cover the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. They include staff whose sickness started prior to this period, and those who were still sick at the end of the period.

Figures for the number of staff in the Department include all staff that have been employed by us during the year 2006-07 including those who have subsequently left us as they all had the potential to contribute to sick absence figures.

The Department uses the International Classification of Diseases version nine, set out by the World Health Organisation to record sick absences. The group for recording stress is 'Depression, Anxiety and Other Mental Health Issues' and does include mental health illnesses other than stress for example: psychoneurosis, schizophrenia, anxiety, nerves, and depression.

The Department has recently moved to a new resource management system. This new system enables us to capture information relating to absences for "stress". The new system was fully operational for all the Department's staff from April 2007. In the future this will enable us to report key information against this absence reason in a more accurate manner.

	Number/percentage
Number of staff taking sick leave for depression, anxiety and other mental health issues	10,079
Number of staff employed in the Department during 2006-07	139,880
Percentage of all staff employed in the Department during 2006-07	7.21

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether people who have been refused initial payments from the Financial Assistance Scheme on the grounds of the de minimis rule will now have payments made to them retrospectively; and what his latest estimate is of the value of such payments. [135124]

James Purnell: 1,076 people affected by the Financial Assistance Scheme's de minimis rule will be eligible for increased payments following the proposed new rules on assistance payments. Increases will apply retrospectively and arrears will be paid back to when the member's entitlement began. The value of such payments is not currently available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the process will be for making payments from the extended Financial Assistance Scheme to those who have lost pension savings; and if he will make a statement. [135131]

James Purnell: As a result of the extension to FAS announced in the 2007 Budget Speech, the FAS Operational Unit will, over the coming months, re-examine all members who have already been assessed to ensure they can be paid as soon as the necessary legislation is in force. Newly eligible members under the FAS extension will also be paid as soon as possible once legislation has come into force.

Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants receive benefit after *(a)* self assessment, *(b)* GP referral and *(c)* independent medical assessment. [131827]

Mrs. McGuire: A person's entitlement to incapacity benefit is informed by the personal capability assessment (PCA). The PCA provides an assessment of the limitations of functional capacity arising from physical and/or mental health conditions.

The PCA is an evidence gathering process, in which evidence is gathered until it is possible to give robust advice that a person satisfies the benefit entitlement threshold.

A person can be accepted as satisfying the threshold, without a medical examination, if they have an exempt condition, indicating a severe degree of disability; or self-report a degree of functional limitation that is consistent and compatible with their condition.

If neither of these applies, the person is called for a face-to-face medical examination. Legislation provides that no person will be disallowed benefits without being offered a medical examination.

For incapacity benefit claims beginning between January and March 2005, of those claimants who completed the PCA process, 24 per cent. were awarded benefit after completing a questionnaire, but without having to attend a medical examination, and 12 per cent. were awarded benefit on GP evidence alone, without being required to fill in a questionnaire or attend a medical examination.

63 per cent of claimants attended a medical examination. However, not all of these were awarded benefit following the medical.

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of incapacity benefit were subject to a personal capability assessment in 2005-06. [136149]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of personal capability assessment medical examinations carried out by Atos Origin Medical Services in the calendar year 2005 was 479,474. In 2006 the number was 497,260. It should be noted that people in receipt of incapacity benefit may have undergone more than one medical examination during this period.

Independent Living Funds

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cotswold of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1496W, on independent living funds, what action was taken as a result of the theft; whether those whose personal data were stolen were informed; how many people's personal data were on the tape; whether those whose personal data were stolen have since been victims of identity fraud; when the theft was discovered and how long after the theft occurred the discovery was made; what type of personal data were stolen; and if he will make a statement. [134150]

Mrs. McGuire: Following the incident last year, the trustees of the ILFs immediately instigated a full end-to-end review of IT security, as a precautionary measure. This review was carried out in consultation with experts in the field of IT and data security.

All those whose personal data were contained on the stolen tape were informed of the incident in writing. The ILFs also set up a telephone help line to help customers who had additional queries.

The stolen tape contained the personal data of approximately 30,000 people, including all current customers of the ILFs, as well as ILF staff and a number of former customers of the funds, whose details are retained in line with strict data retention policies.

To date, there has been no evidence to suggest that anyone has been the victim of identity fraud as a consequence of this incident.

The theft, which involved a forced entry to a data transport and storage contractor's van, while the tape was in transit to the ILFs' office, occurred on 21 September 2006 and was discovered, reported to the police and notified to the ILFs' management in less than two hours.

The exact amount of personal data stolen varied from person to person but the range of data included names, addresses, dates of birth, national insurance numbers and bank account details.

After receiving advice from a range of security professionals, the date of this incident was not made public. There was no information in the public domain to link the incident to the ILFs and to release the date of the incident then could have increased the risk of an attempt to access the data on the stolen tape.

We consider that due to the length of time since the incident, the risk now of the data being compromised is low. Accordingly, the date of the incident has now been made public.

Industrial Health and Safety: Construction

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to ensure that all employees working on building sites have a proper understanding of the risks and dangers involved and the steps that can be taken to prevent injury. [135555]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* It is the responsibility of the employer to ensure that any of their employees who work on construction sites have been provided with comprehensible and relevant information about the risks involved and the preventative and protective measures needed to prevent injury or ill health.

There are also legal duties under the new Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 on those in control of construction work to ensure that any worker carrying out construction work is competent or under the supervision of a competent person.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publishes comprehensive guidance and information to help employers discharge their duties.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured on building sites in each of the last 10 years. [135556]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* The latest available figures cover the period 1996-97 to 2005-06 and are set out in the following tables[1]:

[1] Figures for 2006-07 will have been published by autumn 2007.

Number of fatal injuries to workers and members of the public 1996-97 to 2005-06[1,2]

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Employees	66	58	47	61	73
Self-employed	24	22	18	20	32
Total fatal injuries to workers	90	80	65	81	105
Members of the public	3	6	3	6	8
Total fatal injuries	93	86	68	87	113

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[1]
Employees	60	56	52	55	42
Self-employed	20	14	19	14	17
Total fatal injuries to workers	80	70	71	69	59
Members of the public	5	5	4	8	5
Total fatal injuries	85	75	75	77	64

[1] Provisional.
[2] Reported to all enforcing authorities.

Number of major injuries to workers and non-fatal injuries to members of the public 1996-97 to 2005-06[1,2,3]

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Employees	3,227	3,860	4,289	4,386	4,303
Self-employed	827	466	367	363	405
Total major injuries to workers	4,054	4,326	4,656	4,749	4,708
Members of the public	405	339	378	403	316
Total major injuries	4,459	4,665	5,034	5,152	5,024

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[1]
Employees	4,055	4,031	3,978	3,768	3,677
Self-employed	540	690	750	728	742

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[1]
Total major injuries to workers	4,595	4,721	4,728	4,496	4,419
Members of the public	381	263	180	200	188
Total major injuries	4,976	4,984	4,908	4,696	4,607

[1] Provisional.
[2] Reported to all enforcing authorities.
[3] The definition of a non-fatal injury to a member of the public is different from the definition of a major injury to a worker.

Number of over-three-day injuries to workers 1996-97 to 2005-06[1,2]

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Employees	8,637	9,756	9,195	10,159	9,367
Self-employed	1,029	509	381	345	429
Total over-three-day injuries to workers	9,666	10,265	9,576	10,504	9,796

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[1]
Employees	9,100	8,949	8,256	7,540	7,492
Self-employed	595	629	739	748	799
Total over-three-day injuries to workers	9,695	9,578	8,995	8,288	8,291

[1] Provisional.
[2] Reported to all enforcing authorities.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to ensure that health and safety legislation is properly transmitted to all parts of the building workforce. [135557]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* It is responsibility of employers to ensure that they are fully aware of the requirements of health and safety legislation and that they provide every worker carrying out construction work under their control with any information and training which they need for the work to be carried out safely and without risk to health.

There are also duties under the new Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 on those in charge of notifiable construction projects to have arrangements in place to engage with construction workers to co-operate effectively in promoting and developing measures to ensure the health, safety and welfare of construction workers on that site.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publishes comprehensive guidance information targeted at everyone involved in the construction industry.

New Deal 50 Plus

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants there have been on the New Deal 50 plus in each month since it was created; and how many of these were completing the course for the *(a)* first, *(b)* second, *(c)* third and *(d)* fourth or more time. [136980]

Mr. Jim Murphy: New Deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme and participants receive advice and support to help them return to employment.

The available information on the number of participants on New Deal 50 plus, and the number of times they have participated, is in the following table.

New Deal 50 plus

		Of which, participating for the:			
Month	Number of participants	First time	Second time	Third time	Fourth time or more
2004					
January	4,040	3,480	530	30	0
February	7,140	6,170	910	50	0
March	10,580	9,210	1,290	70	10
April	13,090	11,370	1,620	90	10
May	15,450	13,390	1,930	120	10
June	17,730	15,370	2,200	140	10
July	20,610	17,880	2,540	180	10
August	23,120	19,990	2,930	190	10
September	25,360	21,990	3,150	210	10
October	28,480	24,710	3,510	250	10
November	30,460	26,440	3,740	280	10
December	32,300	28,040	3,970	290	10
2005					
January	34,110	29,640	4,150	310	10
February	36,110	31,450	4,330	320	10
March	37,850	33,000	4,490	340	10
April	39,770	34,670	4,710	370	20
May	41,250	35,950	4,910	370	20
June	42,520	37,070	5,030	400	20
July	44,140	38,480	5,220	420	20
August	45,300	39,520	5,330	430	20
September	46,670	40,720	5,470	450	20
October	47,770	41,710	5,570	470	20
November	49,080	42,870	5,700	490	30
December	50,150	43,840	5,790	500	30
2006					
January	51,080	44,660	5,900	500	30
February	51,920	45,420	5,950	520	30
March	52,910	46,350	6,020	510	30
April	53,430	46,820	6,050	520	40
May	54,240	47,520	6,150	540	40
June	55,000	48,200	6,220	550	40
July	55,450	48,590	6,260	550	40
August	55,790	48,920	6,270	560	40

Notes:
1. Information on participants on the programme is only available from January 2004.
2. Latest data are to August 2006.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants on the New Deal 50 plus programme left the scheme for sustainable employment in each month since the programme was created. [136981]

Mr. Jim Murphy: A measure of employment sustainability is not available for people who have found work through the New Deal 50 plus programme.

New Deal Schemes: Lone Parents

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents on the new deal *(a)* are in work-based training and *(b)* he expects to be placed in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time work. [134430]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Lone parents on the new deal for lone parents (NDLP) programme can access work-based training through new deal for young people or new deal 25 plus contracts. They can also be referred to training through other contracted and non-contracted provision. Information on the number of lone parents on work-based training is not available.

Since the programme started in October 1998, new deal for lone parents has been successful in helping more than 482,000 lone parents into work. Information is not available on whether these lone parents have entered full or part-time work and projections are not made on whether lone parents entering work through the programme will enter full or part-time work.

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written statement of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 113-4WS, on occupational pensions, what the evidential basis is for his estimate that providing benefits of 80 per cent. of core pension rights to members of affected pension schemes will cost £8 billion in cash terms and £1.9 billion in net present value terms. [135116]

James Purnell: In order to determine the likely cost of the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS), data were collected on the numbers and characteristics of 380 affected pension schemes and specific data were collected on some 1,300 members of a smaller number of these schemes expected to be representative of the overall eligible membership. These sample data have then been fed into an actuarial model developed by the Government Actuary's Department to generate detailed time profiles of costs.

The actuarial model calculates the amount of pension that would be paid in each year to each individual in the sample, reflecting the design of the FAS. The key pieces of information used to calculate these costs are: age, retirement age, accrued pension, percentage of pension lost and the likely longevity of eligible members and any survivors. The results, in terms of likely cash flow in each year, are scaled up to the level of the total assumed numbers of affected scheme members.

The main assumptions used in the calculations, based on the best available evidence are as follows:

125,000 eligible pensioner and non-pensioner members;

an average funding level of schemes in respect of non-pensioner members of 30 per cent. to 35 per cent.;

an average accrued pension for non-pensioner members of £3,300 per year; and

longevity estimates from standard tables from the UK actuarial profession's Continuous Mortality Investigation, based on the longevity experienced by pensioners whose pensions are secured with insurance companies.

TRANSPORT

Railways for All Accessibility Strategy

12. **Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the Railways for All Accessibility Strategy. [136914]

Mr. Tom Harris: The strategy was launched in March 2006. It provides £370 million of funding to improve accessibility at stations up to 2015 and around £6 million a year from a small schemes fund for train operators and others to bid for on a match fund basis.

Rail Services

13. **Mr. Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the future of rural and branch railway lines. [136915]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government recognise the importance of local railway lines to the communities they serve and seek to support their development, primarily through the implementation of the Community Rail Development Strategy. The Department has recently published a review of progress we have made in implementing this strategy.

15. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the growth of railway usage has been in the UK compared to other EU countries in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [136917]

Mr. Tom Harris: Over the last five years, passenger kilometres have increased by 13 per cent. in Great Britain. This compares with a decline of 1 per cent. in Germany and Italy, and an increase of 7 per cent. in France. Together these four countries accounted for close to 70 per cent. of the total rail volume across the 25 pre-2007 EU states.

Regional Air Services

14. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to apply public service obligations to UK regional air services following the EU-US agreement on transatlantic air travel. [136916]

Gillian Merron: The Government's guidance on the protection of regional air access to London published in December 2005 sets out how we will interpret the criteria for imposing public service obligations set out in European Regulations. It is for Devolved Administrations or regional bodies to apply for and make the economic case for a PSO.

M4

16. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the capacity of junction 16 on the M4 per day; and what change he expects there to be to future capacity. [136918]

Dr. Ladyman: A specific study would be required to determine the absolute capacity of junction 16. However, existing peak hour congestion problems indicate that it is running at or above capacity at certain times.

Junction 16 is being improved to increase capacity to cater for the additional traffic expected to be generated by the Wichelstowe development.

Landing Slots: Airports

17. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the economic and environmental impact of the system of allocating landing slots at airports and alternatives to it. [136919]

Gillian Merron: The Government commissioned a study in 2006 on alternative ways of allocating landing slots from new capacity at airports. The report of the study is available on the Department's website.

East Coast Main Line

18. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the procedures for awarding franchises on the east coast main line. [R] [136920]

Mr. Tom Harris: Bids are evaluated in accordance with the European Foundation for Quality Management principles and consider the evidence contained in the bid and that available more widely to the Department.

The franchise will be awarded to the bidder that provides best operational and financial deliverability and value for money to the taxpayer.

Rail Services: North-West

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to increase spending on railways in the north-west; and if he will make a statement. [136921]

Mr. Tom Harris: Rail services in the north-west have improved substantially as a result of investment in the west coast main line upgrade and the new high-speed trains which now operate on the route. Future rail investment in this and other regions will be the subject of the high-level output specification for rail which the Government will publish in July.

British Transport Police

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the disposition of the British Transport Police. [136651]

Mr. Tom Harris: Following the Department's review of the British Transport Police (BTP) last year, the Secretary of State decided that BTP should remain as a national, specialist police force for the railways.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135731]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport maintains 62 public-facing websites, including those run by the Executive agencies. 43 of these sites have been identified for rationalisation or closure as part of the website rationalisation programme under the Transformational Government Agenda.

Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House showing unique visitor numbers, costs of establishing each site and maintenance costs for the Department for Transport websites.

Unique visitor data are not provided for all sites as the statistical software used on those sites does not produce this level of detail, only providing page requests rather than visitor data.

Where setup costs are not available this is because the site was established several years ago and the information is no longer available without incurring disproportionate costs.

Where annual maintenance costs are not available this is due to a number of reasons; either the site has only recently been available and maintenance costs are only applicable for the current financial year; the costs are part of a much larger contract and cannot be itemised; or the costs cannot be calculated without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departments: Olympic Games

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's first estimate was of the total contribution to be made from the departmental budget towards the costs of hosting the Olympic games; and what his Department's current estimate is of that cost. [133292]

Gillian Merron: The key transport projects integral to the Olympic bid and supported by the Department stand on their own merits and had been approved prior to the bid's submission. Following the announcement of a full budget for the delivery of the Olympics in March, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer is considering how that budget should be delivered in the context of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people took sick leave for stress in his Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135464]

Gillian Merron: The number of individuals who took sick leave for stress in the Department for Transport and its agencies during the calendar year 2006 is 1,061. This represents 5.3 per cent. of the total staff.

Some agencies have also included, in the figures, absences due to anxiety, nervous debility, neurosis and emotional upset.

Driving Tests: Accidents

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents occurred involving drivers taking the Driving Standards Authority driving test when they were *(a)* reversing around a corner, *(b)* performing a three-point turn, *(c)* parallel parking and *(d)* performing an emergency stop in the last period for which figures are available. [137014]

Dr. Ladyman: During the financial year 2006-07, the Driving Standards Agency recorded:

(a) 14 accidents on the reversing around a corner exercise;

(b) Seven accidents on the three-point turn exercise;

(c) Four parallel parking accidents and

(d) 17 emergency stop accidents.

Driving Tests: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many instances of people found to be impersonating candidates in driving tests there were in each of the last five years. [134798]

Dr. Ladyman: Since records began in 2004, there have been 70 convictions for offences arising from driving test impersonations and a further 79 individuals received cautions. These figures are broken down as follows:

	Convictions secured	*Cautions accepted*	*Ongoing investigations*[1]	*Total investigations*
2004	47	37	19	103
2005	20	34	64	118
2006	3	6	244	253
2007	0	2	175	177
Total	70	79	502	651

[1] Number of investigations from each year still ongoing as at 27 April 2007.

Because of the time required to bring cases to court a further 96 court cases are currently pending and 502 investigations are ongoing. The typical time taken to pursue a case from the initial allegation to a conviction and sentence is about two years.

Since 2004, some 293 people have been arrested for 729 offences arising from driving test impersonations.

Driving Tests: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps would need to be taken to amend the requirements of the Driving Standards Authority driving test. [137015]

Dr. Ladyman: As announced in February in our review of the Government's "Road Safety Strategy", I have asked the Driving Standards Agency to undertake a fundamental review of the way people learn to drive as part of our efforts to reduce road traffic casualties. This will include ensuring that the driving test provides an effective and efficient coverage of the syllabus and demonstrates that a candidate has the required level of competence.

In Great Britain the requirements for the driving test, both the theory and practical elements, are set out in the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations 1999 (as amended). Any proposed changes will be subject to public consultation before decisions are reached and amending regulations laid in Parliament.

Galileo Project

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much British funding has been made available for the Galileo global positioning system. [134359]

Dr. Ladyman: The European Union (EU) and member states of the European Space Agency (ESA) jointly fund the design and development programme for Galileo. To date the UK's subscription to the ESA element of the programme has been €142 million.

The EU's contribution to the design and development programme is made from the EC budget and is estimated by the Commission to be €790 million. The UK's contribution to the EC budget is around 17 per cent. of the total, before the UK receives any abatement.

Invalid Vehicles

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what consultation he has carried out with disability groups on the new classification of mobility scooters as vehicles rather than invalid carriages and the impact of such classification on their use on the highways and footpaths; [136364]

(2) what he expects the impact of the new EU classification of mobility scooters as motorised vehicles to be on the capacity to use those scooters on footways and highways. [136368]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The Department for Transport considers that the change in the classification of mobility vehicles is purely a customs and excise issue, which will not affect road traffic legislation.

Consultation with disability groups on the new classification has not been carried out as it is not considered that it will impact on the ability of scooter users to travel on highways or footpaths.

Foreign-registered Lorries

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures his Department is taking to ensure foreign lorries on roads in the UK comply with UK and EU safety regulations. [134717]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department's Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has a specific responsibility to help ensure that all commercial vehicles and drivers comply with the law, irrespective of whether their operating base is in the UK, or elsewhere.

However, in recognition of the concern that a greater proportion of vehicles and drivers on international journeys break the rules, last year we provided for VOSA to increase the level of roadside enforcement resources they have available in the south-east. This enabled VOSA to double the number of enforcement checks on potentially non-compliant vehicles during the last financial year, and will enable them to increase the number of checks by a further 20 per cent. in the current financial year. VOSA is extending the work of the South East International Transport Pilot nationally.

In addition to providing for a greater level of enforcement activity in the south-east, we also intend to introduce regulations at the earliest opportunity that will enable both the police and VOSA to issue fixed penalties and take a deposit from offenders on-the-spot in any case where they do not have a satisfactory address in the UK.

Enforcement officers will, in future, also be able to immobilise a vehicle in any case where the offender is likely to refuse to pay a deposit, or to drive away in contravention of any prohibition which has been issued, either in respect of the driver, or in any case where the vehicle has been deemed unfit to continue with its journey.

M1: Road Traffic

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he intends to take to reduce congestion on the northbound carriageways of the M1 motorway between junctions 25 and 26. [137137]

Dr. Ladyman: The M1 junction 21-30 improvement scheme, which includes the northbound carriageways between junctions 25 and 26, will reduce congestion. The scheme will also improve safety and journey time reliability. Subject to satisfactory completion of the necessary statutory processes, construction is anticipated to begin between junctions 25 and 28 at the end of 2007 with completion expected in 2010.

Mobility

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department has made in introducing regulations to allow the issuing of temporary badges for drivers with a temporary mobility impairment. [137342]

Gillian Merron: The Department is currently conducting a full strategic review of the Blue Badge Scheme, which will consider the issue of temporary badges. We aim to report our findings in September 2007.

Ports: Construction

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans the Government have to review the planning process for sea-port expansion. [137344]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government will shortly be publishing their proposals for reform of the planning system, including that for major infrastructure developments such as the largest ports.

The Marine Bill White Paper issued in March by the Secretary of State, DEFRA, outlined our proposals for a new marine planning system and the setting up of a new body, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The MMO will, among other roles, administer marine licensing including proposals for harbour development below the category of major port projects.

Road Traffic Control

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what *(a)* economic and *(b)* environmental impact his Department expects the ending of the tidal flow at the Blackwall Tunnel to have on (i) the South East, (ii) East Anglia, (iii) London and (iv) England; [136667]

(2) when and by whom his Department was invited to comment on the proposal to end the tidal flow at the Blackwall Tunnel. [136669]

Gillian Merron: The operation of the Blackwall Tunnel is the responsibility of Transport for London. They consulted the Highways Agency in January on the decision to terminate the tidal flow system. The Highways Agency was satisfied that the traffic impact on the Strategic Road Network would be negligible.

Since the decision to end the tidal flow system is an operational matter for Transport for London, no assessment of the economic and environmental impact has been made by the Department for Transport or the Highways Agency.

Roads: Tolls

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much grant from the Transport Innovation Fund has been given to Transport for London to fund the study of road tolls at Greenwich; [136664]

(2) what *(a)* advice and *(b)* funding his Department has given to Transport for London to assess the impact on surrounding areas of a proposed Greenwich road toll, including the impact of diverted traffic and pollution. [136666]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not provided specific policy or analytical support to Transport for London (TfL) in relation to Greenwich, however it has published guidance that is available to any local traffic authority that might wish to consider road pricing in their area on how to appraise the impacts of potential schemes.

The Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) is available from 2008-09 to support packages that address local congestion problems by combining investment in public transport with demand management, including road pricing. Pump priming money has been awarded to 10 areas to support the development of business cases. TfL has not received pump priming support and was not eligible to apply but may bid for substantive TIF along with other local authorities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Grand Prix: Tourism

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what initiatives her Department is taking to promote tourism in the UK to overseas visitors coming to the UK for the Grand Prix. [136233]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS provides funding for VisitBritain to market Britain overseas and promote England domestically. In partnership with other public sector agencies, VisitBritain seeks to ensure that travellers to Britain enjoy an experience that encourages not only repeat visits but also further exploration of the country. VisitBritain's website contains a dedicated sport area which markets attractions that can be enjoyed by the sports tourist, including material specifically aimed at international tourists visiting the Grand Prix.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Sport recently met the Chief Executive of VisitBritain to discuss how effective marketing can maximise the tourism benefits of major sports events held in this country, in the context of the forthcoming Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games.

Gambling: Fees and Charges

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what level of *(a)* local authority licensing fees and *(b)* Gambling Commission fees have been set by her Department, under the Gambling Act. [136687]

Mr. Caborn: Licensing authorities are responsible for setting the fees for each type of gambling premises on a cost recovery basis. These must not exceed the fee maximum published in The Gambling Act (Premises Licence Fees) (England and Wales) regulations 2005 No. 479.

The Gambling Commission fees are as follows:

Gambling Commission: Payable from 1 January 2007

	Licence Application Fees							
	Non-Remote					*Remote*		
Operating Licence Type	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Casino: 2005 Act	28,988	38,047	43,482	—	—	28,988	34,423	38,047
Casino: 1968 Act	6,588	9,882	19,765	—	—	28,988	34,423	38,047
Bingo	988	1,647	3,294	17,295	20,753	1,647	3,294	16,471
General betting—limited	180	360	990	—	—	—	—	—
General betting—standard	988	988	3,459	17,295	40,518	988	3,294	16,471
Pool betting	659	1,647	4,941	—	—	659	1,647	4,941
Betting intermediary	200	200	200	—	—	9,882	13,176	16,471
Gaming machine general: AGC	988	988	1,647	4,941	16,471	—	—	—
Gaming machine general: FEC	988	988	1,647	4,941	16,471	—	—	—
Gaming machine technical: manufacturer	988	1,647	16,471	—	—	988	1,647	16,471
Gaming machine technical: supplier	988	1,647	4,941	—	—	988	1,647	4,941
Gaming machine technical: software	988	4,941	16,471	—	—	988	4,941	16,471
Gambling software	988	4,941	16,471	—	—	9,882	13,176	16,471
Lottery managers	988	1,647	2,306	—	—	988	1,647	2,306
Society lotteries	165	247	329	—	—	165	247	329

	Proposed Annual Licence Fees							
	Non-Remote					*Remote*		
Operating Licence Type,	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Casino: 2005 Act	48,825	96,925	193,851	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341
Casino: 1968 Act	16,356	20,716	295,539	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341
Bingo	1,769	7,077	16,860	35,790	78,098	12,733	34,176	66,341
General betting—limited	200	467	1,267	—	—	—	—	—
General betting—standard	1,769	7,077	16,860	36,862	212,372	12,733	34,176	66,341
Pool betting	2,121	4,083	4,083	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341
Betting intermediary	267	4,083	4,083	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341
Gaming machine general: AGC	1,616	6,464	12,928	26,488	36,862	—	—	—
Gaming machine general: FEC	1,171	4,683	9,365	21,288	35,790	—	—	—
Gaming machine technical: manufacturer	2,961	6,325	14,175	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341

	Proposed Annual Licence Fees							
	Non-Remote					Remote		
Operating Licence Type	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Gaming machine technical: supplier	2,401	3,243	4,083	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341
Gaming machine technical: software	1,535	3,861	6,188	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341
Gambling software	1,535	3,861	6,188	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341
Lottery managers	1,981	2,261	2,541	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341
Society lotteries	348	692	1,392	—	—	2,372	4,370	6,361

	Licence fee	Annual fee
General betting restricted remote—phone betting only and GGY up to £0.25 million	660	1,500
Ancillary remote fee (per Regs)	100	25

	Charge
Changes in control	
Change in control	75 per cent. of standard licence fee
Change resulting from mergers/divisions	75 per cent. of standard licence fee
Variations	
Add licensed activity	25 per cent. of standard licence
Amend licensed activity	25 per cent. of standard licence
Remove licensed activity	£25 admin fee
Change details	£25 admin fee
Add a condition to the licence	25 per cent. of standard licence fee
Amend a condition to the licence	25 per cent. of standard licence fee
Remove a condition to the licence	25 per cent. of standard licence fee
Copy of licence	£25 admin fee
Copies of the register of operating licences (NB available on the internet for no charge)	£25 admin fee

	Fees	
Personal Licences	Licence	Maintenance
Management Licence	330	330
Functional Licence	165	165

	Charge
Variations	
Add licensed activity	25 per cent. of standard licence fee
Amend licensed activity	25 per cent. of standard licence fee
Remove licensed activity	£25 admin fee
Change details	£25 admin fee
Add a condition to the licence	25 per cent. of standard licence fee
Amend a condition to the licence	25 per cent. of standard licence fee
Remove a condition to the licence	25 per cent. of standard licence fee
Copy of licence	£25 admin fee
Copies of the register of personal licences (NB available on the internet for no charge)	£25 admin fee

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps to provide a two-month compliance extension to operators seeking a premises licence under the terms of the Gambling Act 2006; and if she will make a statement. [137027]

Mr. Caborn: It remains the Government's intention to bring the Gambling Act 2005 fully into force on 1 September 2007.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent research she has *(a)* initiated and *(b)* evaluated on the implications for (i) local authorities and (ii) operators of the non-implementation of the mandatory and default conditions under the Gambling Act 2006. [137028]

Mr. Caborn: No research of this nature has been initiated or evaluated by the Secretary of State.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her timetable is for the introduction of the *(a)* mandatory and *(b)* default conditions under the Gambling Act 2006; and if she will make a statement. [137029]

Mr. Caborn: The Gambling Act 2005 (Mandatory and Default conditions) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 were debated in the House of Commons on 26 March and the House of Lords on 3 May 2007. The regulations have now been made and come into force on 21 May 2007.

National Heritage Memorial Fund

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much national lottery-funded money has yet to be allocated by the National Heritage Memorial Fund; what that figure was in August 2006; how much the fund *(a)* received from the lottery in 2006 and *(b)* expects to receive in 2007; and what the investment returns for the fund from lottery funding were in (i) August 2006 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [137013]

Mr. Caborn: The following table shows the National Heritage Memorial Fund's (NHMF's) income from the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) for the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07; for August 2006 alone, and estimated figures, based on the Department's latest income projections, for 2007-08.

National Heritage Memorial Fund

	Operator related income to nearest £1,000	*Investment income to nearest £1,000*	*Total income to nearest £1,000*
Entire financial year 2005-06	230,631,000	39,704,000	270,334,000
August 2006	19,401,000	2,319,000	21,720,000
Entire financial year 2006-07	200,937,000	30,008,000	230,938,000
Financial year 2007-08 (estimated)	205,833,000	15,667,000	221,500,000

The NHMF provides my Department with data on the level of unpaid lottery commitments at the final day of each quarter of the financial year. The closest figure to August 2006 that we have available is September 2006.

On 30 September 2006 the NHMF's balance in the NLDF was £722,554,821. Its forward commitments including both contractually binding and 'in principle' commitments totalled £1,107,819,235. It was therefore over-committed on its NLDF balance by £385,264,414.

On 31 March 2007 the NHMF's balance was £660,163,116. Its forward commitments, including both contractually binding and 'in principle' commitments totalled £1,084,000,000. It was therefore over-committed by £424,000,000.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many landscaping contracts have been awarded as part of the preparation for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games programme; and if she will make a statement; [136287]

(2) how much has been spent to date on landscaping projects in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games programme. [136289]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has to date appointed one contract for the EDAW Consortium to lead landscape design for the Olympic Park. In the coming months, further contracts will start to be procured relating to the following areas:

hard and soft landscaping;

wetlands;

soil drainage and irrigation;

towpaths and footpaths; and

infrastructure such as lighting, fencing and street furniture.

As is consistent with other non-departmental public bodies, the ODA will be publishing its expenditure figures in its annual report, which will be publicly available before the summer recess.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Administered Incentive Pricing

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library the regulatory impact assessment for implementation of administered incentive pricing; and if he will make a statement. [136084]

Margaret Hodge: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers.

Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Bankruptcy: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people in Gloucestershire were declared bankrupt in each year since 1997. [136765]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Regional insolvency statistics are only available on the basis of the locations of Official Receivers offices, each of which covers a group of county courts where the cases are heard and the courts having jurisdiction over these. It is not possible to provide bankruptcy statistics by constituency, county or Government Office Region. The following table provides the bankruptcy order statistics considered to be closest to those of interest in courts with insolvency jurisdiction which themselves fall within Gloucestershire but they should not be treated as reliable estimates for the administrative geography requested.

	Cheltenham county court	Gloucester county court	Total
1997	57	129	186
1998	65	124	189
1999	65	111	176
2000	57	124	181
2001	65	125	190
2002	81	186	267
2003	93	175	268
2004	120	221	341
2005	135	318	453
2006	259	395	654

Construction: Payments

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to publish his Department's plans to improve payment practices under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (Part II). [136982]

Margaret Hodge: The DTI is developing detailed proposals to improve the adjudication and payment provisions in Part II of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. My officials are due to meet representatives of the construction industry to discuss the proposals shortly. I intend to publish a consultation paper to follow up our previous joint consultation with the Welsh Assembly Government on "Improving payment practices in the construction industry".

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135162]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 18 formal grievance procedures were initiated in the Department during 2006.

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134822]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been less than five complaints of bullying investigated in the last 12 months in the Department. No further information can be provided on the grounds of confidentiality.

The Department's policy and procedures for investigating complaints is set out in the staff handbook, "The Guide", available to all staff.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135380]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been less than five sexual harassment complaints investigated in the last 12 months in the Department. No further information can be provided on the grounds of confidentiality.

The Department's policy and procedures for investigating complaints is set out in the staff handbook, "The Guide", available to all staff.

Farmers: Bankruptcy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1564W, on farmers: bankruptcy, for what reasons bankruptcy figures for 2006 are not available by industry sector. [137111]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Bankruptcy statistics broken down by industry sector are routinely published one quarter in arrears of the headline figures. At the time when the answer referred to above was provided, full year 2006 figures would not, therefore, have been available.

However, further to this, development work is currently being undertaken to the section of the bankruptcy database that records industry classification to update it to the current standard for official statistics: SIC2003 (Standard Industrial Classification 2003). Statistics based on SIC2003 are expected to be available for new bankruptcy orders from July 2007. Complete, reliable statistics by industry for new orders from October 2006 to June 2007 are not available.

For information, the numbers of bankruptcy orders and company liquidations recorded under "Agriculture" and made in the "first 9 months of calendar year 2006" in England and Wales were 129 (bankruptcy orders) and 28 (company liquidations)—the basis of these is consistent with the annual figures for 2001-05 provided in the answer to the hon. Member on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1564W.

Post Offices

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many new post offices opened in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [136809]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The question the hon. Member has asked relates to operational matters for which Post Office Ltd. is directly responsible. Post Office Ltd. has provided the following figures relating to the number of post offices opened.

Number of post office branches opening

	Number
2004	190
2005	202
2006	239

Post Offices: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many new post offices have opened in Essex since 1997. [136813]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The question the hon. Member has asked relates to operational matters for which Post Office Ltd is directly responsible. I understand that the information is not held at county level and the information is available only from 2002. Post Office Ltd has provided the following figures relating to the number of post offices opened for the East of England Region which includes Essex.

Number of post office branches opening

From:	*Number*
2002	185

Post Offices: Rural Areas

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to halt the decline in the number of rural post offices. [136812]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government's policy of preventing avoidable closures of post offices in rural areas, introduced in November 2000, has helped safeguard the number of rural post offices.

Proposals set out in the Government's consultation on the Post Office Network which ran until 8 March 2007, included criteria to safeguard coverage in rural and remote rural areas. The Government's response to consultation which will set out final decisions is expected shortly.

Postal Services: Gloucester

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many postcards he has received as part of the Not via Swindon campaign to keep the Gloucester sorting office open. [136894]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has received 250 postcards as part of this campaign.

Sheep Meat: New Zealand

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what tonnage of sheep meat was imported to the UK from New Zealand in each year between 2004 and 2006; and how much has been imported in 2007. [137035]

Mr. McCartney: HM Revenue and Customs' Overseas Trade Statistics for the quantity of fresh, chilled and frozen sheep meat imports from New Zealand (Standard International Trade Classification 01211 and 01212) are shown in the following table:

	Tonnes
2004	82,050
2005	79,208
2006	83,248
2007 (January and February)	15,701

These figures exclude imports of offal, skins and fats. Comparable figures for imports from New Zealand of fresh, chilled and frozen edible offal of sheep, goats, horses, asses, mules or hinnies (SITC 01255 and 01256) were 10,880, 12,399, 10,466 and 1,977 tonnes respectively; all of this is likely to be sheep offal.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of progress towards adoption targets for local authorities on children and families. [136822]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government have set a number of targets on adoption.

The following target was included in the Department of Health publication 'Improvement, Expansion and Reform: The Next Three Years (Priorities and Planning Framework 2003-06)':

"Maintain current levels of adoption placement stability (as measured by the proportion of placements for adoption ending with the making of an adoption order) so that quality is not compromised whilst increasing the use of adoption as follows:

By 2004-05 increase by 40 per cent. the number of looked after children who are adopted, and aim to exceed this by achieving, if possible, a 50 per cent. increase by 2006, up from 2,700 in 1999-2000. All councils will bring their practice up to the current level of the best performers.

By 2004-05 increase to 95 per cent. the proportion of looked after children placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that adoption is in the child's best interests, up from 81 per cent. in 2000-01, and maintain this level (95 per cent.) up to 2006, by locally applying the timescales in the national adoption standards, taking account of the individual child's needs."

The period during which this target operated came to an end in March 2006.

The target helped significantly to raise the number of adoptions of looked after children, where adoption was in the child's best interests. Between 2000-01 and 2004-05 the proportion of looked after children placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that adoption was in the child's best interests remained stable at around 80 per cent.. We will be reviewing the factors that influenced performance against this target in light of the full implementation and bedding down of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

In addition, in 2004, the following Department for Education and Skills Public Service Agreement target was introduced:

"To narrow the gap in educational achievement between looked after children and their peers, and improve their educational support and the stability of their lives, so that by 2008, 80 per cent. of children under 16 who have been looked after for 2.5 or more years will have been living in the same placement for at least two years, or are placed for adoption."

The percentage of looked after children under 16 who have been looked after for 2.5 or more years and who have been living in the same placement for at least two years, or placed for adoption, has remained stable at around 65 per cent. since this target was introduced. As a result, we have undertaken intensive targeted work with a number of local authorities to help support them in improving placement stability.

Carers: Training

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had recently with *(a)* educational bodies and *(b)* carers organisations on improving access to skills opportunities for carers; and if he will make a statement. [121270]

Phil Hope: Officials in my Department and in the Learning and Skills Council have discussed with Skills for Care, the Sector Skills Council for the care sector, how the national employer training programme in England, Train to Gain, could be made more relevant to the needs of employers and employees within the care sector, and are currently considering proposals.

In England, Train to Gain offers employers in all sectors easy access, via a free skills brokerage service, to a full range of training provision including fully subsidised training leading to a Skills for Life or first full level 2 qualification, such as a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) at level 2. At the end of March 2007 a total of 6,550 employers from the health and social work sector had been engaged by Train to Gain which, at 21 per cent., represents the largest level of sectoral engagement in the programme. That is consistent with Train to Gain's predecessor—the Employer Training Pilots—where the care sector represented 26 per cent. of participating employers.

From September 2006, all adults in England who do not have a full qualification at level 2 are entitled to free tuition to get one, even if they do not work for an employer who is involved with the Train to Gain programme. They can access this level 2 entitlement through their local further education college or a range of other publicly funded training providers.

The Department of Health, together with 13 other Government Departments, has recently made a Skills Pledge commitment to train those staff members without a first full level 2 qualification and we anticipate this will lead to benefits for others who work in its sector including carers.

ChildLine: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in Lancashire contacted ChildLine in each of the last five years. [125743]

Mr. Dhanda: ChildLine is operated by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Government do not hold this sort of statistical data about the number of calls to the helpline.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young looked after children went missing from care in each of the last five years; and in how many of these cases the whereabouts of the child are unknown. [122477]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of young looked after children who went missing from care in the last five years and of those the number whose whereabouts were unknown is shown in the following table.

Children looked after who were reported missing in the years ending 31 March, 2002-06[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] England

Number

Placement	*2002[2]*	*2003[3]*	*2004[2]*	*2005[2]*	*2006[2]*
All children missing from at least one placement	1,100	1,200	880	1,000	1,000
In refuge (Section 51 of Children Act)	10	10	—	—	—
Whereabouts known (not in refuge)	240	300	210	230	210
Whereabouts unknown	820	900	670	790	820

[1] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[2] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 covered all looked after children.
[3] Historical figures may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[4] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise. Where the number was five or less (other than 0) this has been suppressed and replaced with a long dash (—).
[5] A child is recorded with a missing placement if he/she is absent for more than 24 hours from his/her agreed placements.

Children in Care: Qualifications

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many looked after children achieved *(a)* five or more GCSE grades A*-E, *(b)* two or more A-levels and *(c)* entry to a higher education establishment in each local education authority in the Eastern region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [121187]

Mr. Dhanda: We do not collect information about the numbers of looked after children who achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-E. However, data collected since 2000 and published in "Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children Twelve months to 30 September", show the percentage of children who were looked after for at least 12 months achieving five GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-G by region. Data for the East of England are in the table as follows.

Percentage of children who were looked after for at least 12 months achieving 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A to G, 30 September 2000-06, East of England*

	Percentage obtaining at least 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A to G*
2000	37
2001	38
2002	37
2003	37
2004	41

Percentage of children who were looked after for at least 12 months achieving 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A to G, 30 September 2000-06, East of England*

	Percentage obtaining at least 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A* to G
2005	44
2006	38

We do not collect data centrally on how many looked after children achieving two or more A-levels or entering a higher education establishment.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136094]

Mr. Dhanda: Part *(a)* Simple and easy to use guidance is available to all staff via the Departments' internal intranet system.

Part *(b)* All of the Department's computers have energy saving enabled by default. They also have software installed which enables them to be turned on and off remotely and any computers not being actively used at 11 pm every night are shut down using a centrally run automated programme.

Education: Research

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department spent on educational research in the last two years for which figures are available; and how much was spent *(a)* in-house and *(b)* externally. [137144]

Bill Rammell: Over the last two financial years, 2005-06 and 2006-07, the Department has spent £26.5 million and £29.5 million respectively on externally commissioned research. The Department does not separately monitor in-house research activities; to collect this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department spent on educational research from the National Foundation for Educational Research in the last two years for which figures are available. [137145]

Bill Rammell: Over the last two financial years, 2005-06 and 2006-07, the Department has spent £1.9 million and £2.6 million respectively on research from the National Foundation for Educational Research.

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what education is provided for juveniles aged between 10 and 17 years in *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* local authority secure children's homes; who provides the teaching; and for how many hours each week. [136429]

Phil Hope: The curriculum delivered to young people in custody is guided by "The Offender's Learning Journey (juveniles)" in young offender institutions (under the Learning and Skills Council's Offender Learning and Skills Service) and the National Specification for Learning and Skills in secure training centres and secure children's homes. It specifies a curriculum balance of approximately one third basic skills, one third academic or vocational subjects and one third physical education, arts, information and communications technology, and personal, social and health education. The learning is based on a young person's needs to support progression to education, training or employment on release, alongside a daily literacy and numeracy session and an hour per month with a career guidance professional.

In young offender institutions education is provided under the Offenders Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) contracts managed and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The LSC contracts with further education colleges as well as private providers to deliver the teaching. Latest Youth Justice Board performance statistics for 2005-06 indicate that young people received an average of 28.24 hours per week of education, training and personal development activity, against a target of 25 hours a week.

Secure training centres are privately run; two contract with further education providers to deliver their education, one contracts with a private provider and the other delivers education in-house. The latest YJB performance statistics indicate that 99.4 per cent. of young people received 30 hours or more per week.

Teachers in secure children's homes are usually recruited directly by their local authority. Latest figures show that 79.9 per cent. of young people in secure children's homes received 30 hours or more education, training and personal development activity a week.

Foster Care

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what level of financial support is provided for children who are *(a)* in recognised foster care and *(b)* subject to special guardianship or residence orders with friends or family other than their parents. [136835]

Mr. Dhanda: All approved foster carers receive an allowance in respect of each looked after child in their care. The level and structure of payments are at the discretion of local authorities and independent fostering providers. However, to create a fairer system of payments across the country, we have announced new national minimum allowance rates for foster carers. From April 2007, the national minimum allowance, which is subject to regional variation, is £100-£116 per week for a baby, rising to £151-£176 per week for an older teenager.

With regard to residence orders, local authorities have a power to pay an allowance, which is most often used to enable children to leave care to live with relatives.

In addition, local authorities are required to make arrangements for the provision of special guardianship support services as prescribed by the Special Guardianship Regulations 2005; these include financial support. Before making any decision about financial support, local authorities are required to consider the needs of the child and the resources available to the special guardian. We have developed a model means test to assist local authorities in calculating appropriate levels of financial support for both adoption and special guardianship.

Nursery Schools: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many nursery school places were available in Copeland in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2006-07. [136269]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Number of part-time funded places[1, 2, 3] filled by three and four-year-olds—parliamentary constituency: Copeland—position in January

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[5]	Total three year olds	Maintained nursery and primary schools[6]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[7]	Total four year olds
2006	400	240	630	580	100	690

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency 1996-97 are not available.
[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.
[6] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.

Number of part-time funded places[1, 2] filled by three and four-year-olds—local authority: Cumbria—position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	Total three year olds	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	Total four year olds
1997	2,600	n/a	2,600	n/a	n/a	[5,6]5,600
2006	2,400	[7]1,900	4,300	4,200	[8]670	4,800

n/a = not available.
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] For the years 1997-2001, four year old sub national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 32/2006 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2006 (final)" in August. Figures for January 2007 will be published in SFR 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007" at 9.30 am on 31 May 2007. Both are available on my Department's website:

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Pupils: Disability Aids

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that disabled children and young people are provided with a wheelchair which meets their clinical, social and educational needs; [134779]

(2) what assessment he has made of the extent to which wheelchair assessments for children support the delivery of the five key outcomes envisaged by Every Child Matters; [134778]

(3) what guidance his Department *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue on the role of primary care trusts and local education authorities in jointly commissioning and resourcing wheelchair services for children and young people in line with Standard 8 of the National Service Framework for Children. [135125]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Education and Skills leads the cross-government programme Every Child Matters; Change for Children but it is not responsible for all aspects of policy on children. The Department of Health is responsible for the health of disabled children and for wheelchair services for adults and children. It therefore leads the Be Healthy strand of the Every Child Matters programme.

The Department has made it clear that eligibility for services and support is for councils to determine in a locally consistent manner. We believe that local decision making by councils is an important means by which local people have the opportunity to influence decisions about resources, charging and priorities.

The Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) report 'Out and About', which was published on 20 October 2006, highlights the importance of services being committed to standard 8 of the Children's National Service Framework (NSF). The Commission

for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) will be referring to the best practice checklist, contained in the report, as part of its inspection process and will be specifically including wheelchair services.

The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services (TCEWS) programme is looking at how best to address the issues the services face through development of a new delivery model in collaboration with stakeholders. The Department for Education and Skills is working closely with us on this ongoing programme of work. We anticipate that the new model will be capable of implementation by April 2008

The TCEWS programme was able to develop two potential models for wheelchair services in collaboration with users and their carers, seven wheelchair services, the wheelchair services managers and to refine the potential models with practitioners and suppliers. Further data are required before recommendations can be made for the way forward. A further data gathering exercise has been approved and an update will be provided in autumn 2007.

As part of our commitment set out in the Children's NSF, we presented, on 16 April 2006, a new self-assessment tool for commissioners of children's and young people's health services. The tool will play an important role in ensuring that all commissioners are equipped and able to deliver improved quality and outcomes for services for children and young people.

We are currently consulting on the Commissioning Framework for Health and Well-being which sets out how local commissioners can successfully commission services that improve health and well-being and help people remain independent. It also consults on a new duty for local authorities and primary care trusts to work together on a joint strategic needs assessment. This will outline current and predicted needs of the local population so providers can best promote the health and well-being of their local populations, particularly those groups that currently get a poor response from services.

Every Child Matters aims to improve outcomes for disabled children through better integration of services, at strategic and operational levels, including the pooling of budgets. The introduction of children's trust arrangements should see services coming together to provide more joined-up and coherent services and make a major contribution to the NSF standard 8 vision for equipment provision.

The Department does not collect centrally the average waiting times for children and young people under the age of 18 following assessment to receive a lightweight manual and a powered indoor and outdoor wheelchair in each of the last three years.

The Department does not collect centrally the data for the percentage of children under the age of 18 years who met local eligibility criteria and received a powered indoor and outdoor wheelchair within three months, six months and one year of an assessment in the last three years.

School Food Trust

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been made available by his Department to *(a)* the School Food Trust and *(b)* each other similar organisation in each of the last three years. [135974]

Mr. Dhanda: The School Food Trust has been allocated £1 million in 2005-06, £7 million in 2006-07 and £7 million in 2007-08 in grant in aid. There are no other Department for Education and Skills agencies working in this area.

Schools: Contraception

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the evidential basis was for the statement made by Ofsted in its report, "Time for Change? Personal, Social and Health Education", that school nurses are providing an important service by offering the morning after pill to pupils; whom Ofsted consulted before making this statement; what recent representations he has received about the Ofsted report from *(a)* parents, *(b)* head teachers and *(c)* organisations; whether his Department plans to reply to the report; how many copies of the report were (i) published, (ii) sold and (iii) provided free of charge by Ofsted; how many copies of the report were provided to his Department; at what cost to (A) his Department and (B) Ofsted; what discussions (x) Ministers and (y) officials have had with Ofsted about the report; if he will place copies of the report in the Vote Office; how members of the public may obtain the report; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [132650]

Jim Knight: The Department has not received representations from parents, head teachers or organisations about this report. The findings of Ofsted are given careful consideration but the Department does not routinely produce formal responses to such reports. Ministers and officials have ongoing discussions with Ofsted about issues relating to PSHE.

Matters concerning the distribution of this particular report, and the evidential basis for judgments within it, are for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member on these matters and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library. Ofsted's report can be accessed via this link

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/publications

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 2 May 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked what the evidential basis was for the statement made by Ofsted in its report, "Time for Change? Personal, Social and Health Education (HMI070049)", that school nurses are providing an important service by offering the morning after pill to pupils; whom Ofsted consulted before making this statement; how many copies of the report were (i) published, (ii) sold and (iii) provided free of charge by Ofsted; how many copies of the report were provided to the Department; at what cost to (A) the Department and (B) Ofsted; how members of the public may obtain the report; at what cost.

Our report states that:

"school nurses can also provide a valuable service, particularly in terms of providing emergency hormonal contraception and advising on other forms of contraception".

This is in line with non-statutory guidance published by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The DfES publication "Teenage Pregnancy Next Steps: Guidance for Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts on Effective Delivery of

Local Strategies" (2006) sets out the key findings from 'deep dive' reviews carried out by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit to identify factors responsible for the significant variation in performance between local areas, including between areas that are statistically similar. The guidance states:

"Provision of young people focused contraception/sexual health services, trusted by teenagers and well known by professionals working with them". This was the factor most commonly cited as having the biggest impact on conception rate reductions in the high performing areas. Features of successful services reflected the "Best practice guidance on the provision of effective contraception and advice services for young people", issued by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit in 2000: easy accessibility in the right location with opening hours convenient to young people; provision of the full range of contraceptive methods, including long acting methods; a strong focus on sexual health promotion (as well as reactive services) through, for example, outreach work in schools, work with professionals to improve their ability to engage with young people on sexual health issues; and through highly visible publicity. Effective services also had a strong focus on meeting the specific needs of young men. All high-performing areas also had condom distribution schemes involving a wide range of local agencies and/or access to emergency contraception in non-clinical settings.

Ofsted's own discussions with young people suggest they want and trust services in schools and welcome and recognise the commitment that schools show to meeting their wider health needs.

The report is only available on the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk. It can be accessed at no cost to members of the public.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Young People

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government have taken to implement the policies laid out in the paper Youth Matters: Next Steps; and whether implementation will be completed by April 2008. [137332]

Mr. Dhanda: We published Youth Matters: Next Steps in March 2006, setting out our plans to reform services for young people, particularly to narrow the gap between the most disadvantaged and the rest. Considerable progress has been made to implement these policies over the past year. We have introduced new legislation (Education and Inspections Act 2006) which places a duty on all local authorities to secure access for young people in their area to sufficient positive activities and publicise these. Young people up and down the country are accessing the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital funds—enabling them to undertake wider activities and decide how the additional £115 million investment should be spent.

The Government established the new charity, v, which has been tasked with encouraging more young people to volunteer. Significant progress has been made to reach a target of one million new young volunteers and attract private sector finance for these new opportunities.

Through our reforms to targeted youth support, we are improving the range and coherence of services that support vulnerable young people in their pivotal teenage years. 14 children's trusts took part in the targeted support pathfinders during 2006 and guidance on developing targeted services was published in April 2007.

Integrated youth support services will be in place throughout England by 2008. For Connexions, this means a major transition whereby the funding and responsibility for securing delivery of services, currently held by 47 Connexions partnerships, will pass to 150 local authorities working through children's trust arrangements by 2008.

We are also developing new quality standards for young people's information advice and guidance (IAG) and the new standards will be published by July 2007.

After careful consideration, we no longer intend to run the youth opportunity card pilots. We will continue to explore ways of improving the choices for young people in things to do and places to go while enabling them to have an increasing influence and a real say in what is provided.

Youth Opportunity Fund

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding has been allocated to the *(a)* Youth Opportunity Fund and *(b)* Youth Capital Fund in each of the last two years, broken down by funding stream; and how much each local authority has received. [137331]

Mr. Dhanda: The Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) were announced in the Green Paper Youth Matters and have been available to local authorities from April 2006. A total of £115 million is available for both funds over the period 2006-08.

£31 million per year for the Youth Opportunity Fund

£26.5 million per year for the Youth Capital Fund

Information about the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and Youth Capital Fund (YCF) allocations by local authority was sent out in March 2006 in the guidance for the funds. The allocations are the same for each of the two years from 2006-07 and 2007-08 and are set out in the attached annex A of this letter.

Annex A: Table of allocations to local authorities for the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) for the period 2006-08

£

	Allocations for 2006-08		
Local authority	*YOF*	*YCF allocations*	*YOF and YCF total*
Barking and Dagenham	252,878	218,719	471,597
Barnet	399,112	345,200	744,312
Barnsley	279,955	242,138	522,093
Bath and North East Somerset	187,673	162,322	349,996
Bedfordshire	454,632	393,220	847,852
Bexley	265,836	229,927	495,762
Birmingham	1,570,252	1,358,142	2,928,394
Blackburn with Darwen	205,042	177,345	382,386
Blackpool	187,406	162,091	349,497
Bolton	373,622	323,153	696,774
Bournemouth	180,000	144,809	324,809

Annex A: Table of allocations to local authorities for the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) for the period 2006-08

£

Local authority	Allocations for 2006-08 YOF	YCF allocations	YOF and YCF total
Bracknell Forest	180,000	130,000	310,000
Bradford	724,019	626,218	1,350,237
Brent	356,489	308,335	664,824
Brighton and Hove	281,760	243,700	525,460
Bromley	333,418	288,380	621,798
Buckinghamshire	464,414	401,681	866,095
Bury	199,958	172,948	372,906
Calderdale	243,935	210,984	454,919
Cambridgeshire	573,806	496,296	1,070,103
Camden	258,123	223,255	481,378
Cheshire	686,656	593,902	1,280,558
City of Bristol	519,565	449,382	968,947
City of Derby	300,806	260,173	560,979
City of Hull	446,182	385,912	832,094
City of Leicester	482,756	417,545	900,301
City of London	100,000	100,000	200,000
City of Nottingham	462,716	400,212	862,928
City of Peterborough	247,962	214,468	462,430
City of Plymouth	318,696	275,647	594,343
City of Westminster	314,317	271,859	586,175
City of York	180,000	139,825	319,825
Cornwall	512,230	443,038	955,268
Coventry	428,393	370,526	798,918
Croydon	415,687	359,536	775,224
Cumbria	542,710	469,400	1,012,110
Darlington	180,000	130,000	310,000
Derbyshire	782,874	677,123	1,459,997
Devon	682,636	590,426	1,273,062
Doncaster	418,779	362,210	780,990
Dorset	372,109	321,844	693,953
Dudley	378,807	327,638	706,445
Durham	620,040	536,285	1,156,324
Ealing	352,818	305,159	657,977
East Riding of Yorks	317,130	274,292	591,422
East Sussex	546,005	472,251	1,018,256
Enfield	391,510	338,625	730,136
Essex	1,419,344	1,227,619	2,646,963
Gateshead	214,386	185,426	399,812
Gloucestershire	582,837	504,107	1,086,944
Greenwich	416,974	360,649	777,623
Hackney	321,816	278,345	600,162
Halton	189,728	164,100	353,828
Hammersmith and Fulham	202,812	175,416	378,228
Hampshire	1,188,545	1,027,996	2,216,542
Haringey	370,631	320,566	691,196
Harrow	231,244	200,007	431,251
Hartlepool	180,000	130,000	310,000
Havering	245,617	212,439	458,056
Herefordshire	180,000	151,947	331,947
Hertfordshire	1,193,412	1,032,206	2,225,618
Hillingdon	385,753	333,646	719,399
Hounslow	291,452	252,083	543,535

Annex A: Table of allocations to local authorities for the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) for the period 2006-08

£

Local authority	Allocations for 2006-08 YOF	YCF allocations	YOF and YCF total
Isle of Wight	180,000	144,534	324,534
Isles of Scilly	100,000	100,000	200,000
Islington	272,706	235,869	508,575
Kensington and Chelsea	262,457	227,005	489,462
Kent	1,468,790	1,270,386	2,739,176
Kingston Upon Thames	180,000	144,402	324,402
Kirklees	459,174	397,149	856,323
Knowsley	276,284	238,963	515,247
Lambeth	329,266	284,788	614,054
Lancashire	1,315,799	1,138,060	2,453,859
Leeds	991,853	857,873	1,849,726
Leicestershire	651,722	563,687	1,215,410
Lewisham	395,379	341,972	737,351
Lincolnshire	679,758	587,937	1,267,695
Liverpool	863,393	746,766	1,610,159
Luton	260,794	225,566	486,361
Manchester	689,456	596,325	1,285,781
Medway	300,430	259,848	560,277
Merton	228,847	197,934	426,780
Middlesbrough	267,333	231,221	498,554
Milton Keynes	262,495	227,037	489,532
Newcastle upon Tyne	359,041	310,542	669,583
Newham	401,558	347,316	748,874
Norfolk	845,192	731,023	1,576,215
North East Lincolnshire	254,643	220,246	474,889
North Lincolnshire	192,412	166,421	358,833
North Somerset	195,284	168,905	364,189
North Tyneside	222,523	192,464	414,987
North Yorkshire	565,844	489,410	1,055,253
Northamptonshire	755,213	653,199	1,408,413
Northumberland	359,620	311,043	670,663
Nottinghamshire	914,550	791,013	1,705,563
Oldham	320,862	277,520	598,381
Oxfordshire	692,403	598,873	1,291,275
Poole	180,000	130,000	310,000
Portsmouth	254,600	220,208	474,808
Reading	181,369	156,870	338,240
Redbridge	264,869	229,090	493,959
Redcar and Cleveland	216,042	186,859	402,901
Richmond Upon Thames	181,930	157,355	339,286
Rochdale	290,679	251,414	542,093
Rotherham	356,375	308,236	664,611
Rutland	100,000	100,000	200,000
Salford	322,494	278,932	601,426
Sandwell	470,218	406,701	876,918
Sefton	346,167	299,407	645,574
Sheffield	659,372	570,304	1,229,675
Shropshire	287,492	248,657	536,149
Slough	180,000	132,719	312,719
Solihull	255,902	221,335	477,237
Somerset	535,143	462,856	997,998

Annex A: Table of allocations to local authorities for the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) for the period 2006-08

£

Local authority	Allocations for 2006-08 YOF	YCF allocations	YOF and YCF total
South Gloucestershire	265,914	229,994	495,908
South Tyneside	221,162	191,287	412,449
Southampton	277,281	239,826	517,107
Southend on Sea	188,616	163,138	351,753
Southwark	443,511	383,602	827,113
St. Helens	237,953	205,810	443,763
Staffordshire	902,838	780,882	1,683,720
Stockport	320,047	276,815	596,861
Stockton on Tees	261,924	226,543	488,467
Stoke on Trent	318,267	275,275	593,542
Suffolk	685,646	593,029	1,278,676
Sunderland	401,711	347,448	749,158
Surrey	1,176,208	1,017,325	2,193,533
Sutton	228,700	197,807	426,508
Swindon	222,439	192,392	414,830
Tameside	301,844	261,071	562,914
Telford and Wrekin	206,598	178,691	385,289
Thurrock	181,596	157,066	338,662
Torbay	180,000	130,000	310,000
Tower Hamlets	424,408	367,079	791,487
Trafford	215,294	186,212	401,505
Wakefield	392,775	339,719	732,494
Walsall	419,776	363,073	782,849
Waltham Forest	345,533	298,858	644,391
Wandsworth	292,892	253,328	546,221
Warrington	203,578	176,079	379,657
Warwickshire	530,715	459,026	989,740
West Berkshire	180,000	151,015	331,015
West Sussex	778,086	672,982	1,451,068
Wigan	379,269	328,037	707,306
Wiltshire	432,110	373,740	805,850
Windsor and Maidenhead	180,000	141,809	321,809
Wirral	420,943	364,082	785,025
Wokingham	180,000	145,441	325,441
Wolverhampton	351,624	304,126	655,750
Worcestershire	564,748	488,462	1,053,209
England	[1]61,500,000	53,000,000	114,500,000

[1] Excluding £500,000 over 3-years which will be used to evaluate the YOF and YCF (topsliced from the YOF)
Combined total for allocations over two years is £114.5 million
Overall investment for the YOF/YCF: £115 million over two years

Notes:
Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) for the period 2006-08
This table shows the amounts allocated to local authorities for the YOF and the YCF separately over the two year period 2006-08 as follows:
Column 1 - local authority in alphabetical order
Column 2 - total amount over two years for YOF
Column 3 - total amount over two years for YCF
Column 4 - YOF and YCF combined total allocations over two years

Youth Services: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the Government's budget is for spending on youth services in 2007-08. [137334]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government do not set a budget for spending on youth services. Local authorities decide what should be spent, taking into account Government policy and local needs. For 2006-07 local authorities in England reported that they intended to budget £403 million on youth services. Figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Transport: Crime

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many crimes were reported on Northern Ireland's transport network in each of the last three years, broken down by type. [128129]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI have provided the following information:

Number of offences recorded

Crime type	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007
Offences against the person	151	127	133	69
Sexual offences	5	7	12	12
Burglary	1	0	1	0
Robbery	5	5	17	2
Theft	116	89	91	88
Criminal damage	887	699	930	570
All other offences[1]	6	5	6	5
Total crime	1,171	932	1,190	746

[1] All other offences includes fraud and forgery, offences against the state and other notifiable offences.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

These statistics include offences where the location of the offence was a bus or train, the property involved was a bus or train, or the victim was a bus or train driver.

These figures are provisional and may be subject to revision.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities: Home Office

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 133-5WS, on machinery of Government change, what the estimated cost is of the machinery of Government changes; and if he will make a statement; [136481]

(2) if he will place in the Library all cost evaluations undertaken on the machinery of Government changes. [136482]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1983W, to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies).

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Prime Minister who the health policy adviser is at No. 10 Downing street. [135889]

The Prime Minister: Professor Paul Corrigan.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many of his special advisers have been employed as Government special advisers for four years or longer; [136994]

(2) for what reason 25 special advisers named for the Prime Minister were listed in his written ministerial statement of 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 87WS, on special advisers, but salary details included for 22; and how many of his listed special advisers are unpaid. [137173]

The Prime Minister: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each pay band. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 86-91WS. Information on the number of special advisers before 2003 was provided at regular intervals. This information is available in the Libraries of the House.

The information requested on salary details can be found in the pay band table included in the annual list.

Joint Intelligence Committee: Official History

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 27WS, for what reasons he appointed Dr. Michael Goodman to write the official history of the Joint Intelligence Committee; and if he will place in the Library Dr. Goodman's biographical details. [136350]

The Prime Minister: I have appointed Dr. Michael Goodman to write the official history of the Joint Intelligence Committee because he is an expert in the field. Dr. Goodman is a lecturer at King's College London where he specialises in the study of intelligence.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Prime Minister when he will reply to the letter dated 2 May 2007 from the hon. Member for Billericay on the subject of his oral answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1505, on Iraq. [136943]

The Prime Minister: My Office has replied to the hon. Member.

Petitions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what recent representations he has received on e-petitions; how much was spent on promoting e-petitions in each year since the project was created; how much is planned for the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [136798]

The Prime Minister: Since November my office has received approximately 50 letters about e-petitions.

No costs have been incurred in promoting e-petitions, and no such costs are planned for the next 12 months. All spending on e-petitions is included in the overall cost of the No. 10 website.

Written Questions

Mr. Baron: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to reply to question 136508, on Iraq, tabled by the hon. Member for Billericay on 3 May. [136945]

The Prime Minister: I replied to the hon. Member on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 469-70W.

JUSTICE

Electoral Fraud

26. **Ms Diana R. Johnson:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has to bring forward proposals to strengthen the law on electoral fraud. [136928]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have taken significant steps in recent years to tighten up the security of the electoral process, and assist the police and prosecutors in tackling electoral fraud. These measures are primarily established by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and associated secondary legislation.

We will wish to consider the effectiveness of these new measures in light of the experience of them at the May 2007 elections.

Ministerial Visits

27. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which prisons she plans to visit before the end of June 2007. [136929]

29. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Minister of State Ministry of Justice which prisons she intends to visit before the end of June 2007. [136931]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Members of our ministerial team will continue to visit prisons, probation offices and regional offender managers throughout England and Wales over the coming months.

Legal Aid

28. **Anne Milton:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the effect of her legal aid changes on access to justice. [136930]

Vera Baird: Legal aid reform will mean that we can help as many people as possible and place legal aid on a sustainable basis for the future. It will enable us to shift resources away from criminal legal aid, so that we can spend a greater proportion on civil and family legal advice and assistance.

Electoral Administrators

30. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what discussions she has had with the Electoral Commission on performance standards for electoral administrators. [136932]

Bridget Prentice: I have met with Sam Younger, Chairman of the Commission to discuss performance standards. I have also formally responded to the Commission's consultation paper on developing registration performance indicators. A pilot of these is now well under way and the Commission intends to roll out a set of electoral registration performance indicators to administrators by December 2007.

Voter Registration

31. **Mr. Betts:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what further steps her Department plans to take to increase voter registration. [136933]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to increasing registration rates. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 has a number of measures to increase levels of electoral registration. These include:

Imposing a new duty on Electoral Registration Officers to take all necessary steps to ensure a comprehensive register.

Increasing the time available for registration by enabling people to register up to 11 days before the election.

Introducing performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers. We expect the performance standard concerning electoral registration to come into effect by December 2007.

The Government are currently evaluating the effectiveness of these new measures and keep this area under review to identify initiatives that will further increase levels of electoral registration.

Electoral Register

32. **John Robertson:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will place a duty on electoral registration officers to use all available databases to compile the electoral register. [136934]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a new duty to help Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) increase registration rates and compile a more accurate register. This includes:

sending the annual canvass form more than once to an address;

making house-to-house inquiries on one or more occasions;

making contact by such other means as the registration officer thinks appropriate; and

inspecting any records that the ERO is permitted to inspect, such as council tax and housing databases.

I am pleased to say that as of 1 December 2006, the number of registered electors in the UK has increased by just over half a million people.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether the Electoral Register will be updated automatically following changes of address notified to the National Identity Register. [136990]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have no plans to link the electoral registration process to the National Identity Register.

Magistrates Courts

34. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the adequacy of facilities for victims and witnesses in magistrates courts. [136936]

Ms Harman: We have undertaken two audits in the past two years to establish how existing witness facilities meet established minimum standards. Following those audits over £3.3 million has been invested in both magistrates and Crown courts to improve facilities. Examples of work undertaken include the re-decoration and re-furnishing of witness waiting rooms as well as the purchase of toys and games for child witnesses.

Magistrates Courts: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether she plans to review her decision on the merging of magistrates courts in Lancashire. [136935]

Ms Harman: I have no plans to review my decision on the merging of Chorley, Ormskirk and South Ribble local justice areas.

Absent Voting: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what percentage of the electorate in each local authority in Gloucestershire has registered for a postal vote. [136764]

Bridget Prentice: The Government hold information on registration figures only as of 1 December 2006, and the number of postal voters as of 1 January 2007. Using this information provides the following percentages for the local government electorate in Gloucestershire:

	Percentage
Cheltenham	20.58
Cotswold	15.74
Forest of Dean	11.92
Gloucester	17.17
Stroud	10.91
Tewkesbury	8.96

Updated information may be obtained directly from local authorities.

Abu Hamza

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 290W, on Abu Hamza, when she expects to be in a position to provide details of claims on the legal aid fund by lawyers acting for Abu Hamza. [136675]

Vera Baird: £131,412 has been paid from the legal aid fund so far. However, the full costs are estimated to be £1 million. A Recovery of Defence Costs Order (RDCO) was made against Abu Hamza to pay this back to the Legal Services Commission (LSC).

Administration of Justice: Females

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when she expects to publish her response to Baroness Corston's review of women in the criminal justice system. [137481]

Vera Baird: The Government have given a broad welcome to the report. The 43 recommendations which it makes are wide-ranging and propose action by a number of different Government Departments and organisations. We are carefully exploring the recommendations with all the Departments and agencies concerned and will develop a detailed response as soon as possible.

Ballot Papers: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many and what percentage of ballot papers were spoilt *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each Assembly constituency at the last (i) London mayoral and (ii) Greater London Assembly elections; and if she will make a statement. [137057]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number and percentage of the rejected (spoilt) ballot papers at each constituency in the Assembly elections, and the total number for the election of the Mayor of London on 10 June 2004.

	London Assembly member: total rejected		*Constituency Assembly member: total rejected*		*London Mayor*			
					1st choice: total rejected		*2nd choice: total rejected*	
Constituency	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Barnet and Camden	3,204	2.2	7,538	5.3	3,552	2.5	25,917	18.2
Bexley and Bromley	3,207	1.9	5,766	3.5	3,765	2.3	25,987	15.8
Brent and Harrow	3,697	2.9	9,141	7.2	4,334	3.4	26,356	20.9
City and East	5,262	3.6	15,287	10.5	7,321	5.0	30,047	20.6
Croydon and Sutton	3,166	2.2	6,727	4.8	3,675	2.6	22,062	15.6
Ealing and Hillingdon	4,375	2.9	8,715	5.9	4,779	3.2	28,147	19.0
Enfield and Haringey	3,116	2.5	7,953	6.4	3,746	3.0	23,052	18.6
Greenwich and Lewisham	2,712	2.3	6,866	5.9	3,049	2.6	17,633	15.2
Havering and Redbridge	3,638	2.7	7,271	5.3	4,028	2.9	22,554	16.5
Lambeth and Southwark	3,471	2.8	10,248	8.2	3,794	3.0	19,647	15.8
Merton and Wandsworth	3,134	2.4	6,993	5.3	3,425	2.6	21,509	16.4
North East	3,521	2.5	10,698	7.7	4,375	3.1	22,854	16.4
South West	3,018	1.9	6,969	4.5	3,692	2.4	21,957	14.2
West Central	3,105	2.4	8,323	6.7	3,339	2.7	21,383	17.2
Total	48,536	2.5	118,495	6.2	56,874	3	329,105	17.1

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps she plans to take to ensure that in preparation for the elections for the London Mayor and Assembly *(a)* the layout of the ballot paper is improved to reduce the risk of spoilt ballot papers and *(b)* (i) scrutiny of spoilt papers by counting agents and (ii) decision making by the returning officer and staff is improved; and if she will make a statement. [137058]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have been working closely with the Greater London Returning Officer in the development of the updated rules for the conduct of elections to the GLA. As part of this process, the GLRO has undertaken a detailed study of the design of the ballot papers, including user testing of different possible formats (four for the mayoral election and two for the Assembly). Equally, the work on developing the new GLA elections rules will specifically look at the provisions for counting of votes to maximise transparency of the count process. The GLRO will look at what training and support will need to be provided to each of the constituency returning officers to achieve consistency in the decisions on rejected ballot papers.

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what she expects the cost to be of replacing the *(a)* signs, *(b)* stationery, *(c)* clothing and *(d)* other items bearing the name or insignia of the Department for Constitutional Affairs. [136470]

Vera Baird: The full costs to replace the *(a)* signs, *(b)* stationery, *(c)* clothing and *(d)* other items bearing the name or insignia of the Department for Constitutional Affairs have not yet been identified due to the launch of the Ministry of Justice not occurring until 9 May 2007.

Electoral Register: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps she is taking to monitor and improve *(a)* electoral registration and *(b)* postal vote registration in Barnet; and if she will make a statement. [137056]

Bridget Prentice: One of the aims of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EA Act) was to improve electoral registration. Section 9 of the EA Act sets out the necessary steps that all Electoral Registration Officers must take to maintain the electoral register.

These steps include sending the canvass form more than once to any address, conducting house to house inquiries and making contact by such means as appropriate. Each local authority has adopted an approach that is appropriate to their local circumstances, within the context of the necessary steps.

A later registration date was also available for the May 2007 local elections allowing electors to register up to 11 days before the poll.

Section 67 of the EA Act requires the Electoral Commission to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services and this will also help to monitor and improve electoral registration.

As of 1 December 2006 the number of registered electors in Barnet had increased by 5,580. We have not taken any specific action to improve postal vote registration, as how an elector chooses to vote is a matter of choice for the elector. A person can now apply for a postal vote at the same time as they apply to register to vote. The annual canvass form now includes a tick box for this purpose and the poll card issued to electors also provides information about how to apply for a postal vote. The requirement for the applicant to provide a signature and date of birth is also an improvement to the security of the postal vote process.

Electoral Systems

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether the Government have commenced their review of electoral systems in the United Kingdom. [137183]

Bridget Prentice: The review is under way in the Ministry of Justice and commenced after the May 2005 elections.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the timetable is for the publication of the Government's review of electoral systems in the United Kingdom. [137185]

Bridget Prentice: The review is currently under way in the Ministry of Justice and it is anticipated that the review will be completed within the lifetime of this Parliament. Ministers will take decisions on any next steps, if necessary, after the review is completed.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many full-time equivalent civil servants have been allocated to work on the Government's review of electoral systems in the United Kingdom. [137186]

Bridget Prentice: The number of full-time equivalent civil servants working on the review has varied over time. The work is currently allocated to one full-time equivalent civil servant. However work has been spread among a number of people with different levels of resource at different times.

Fines: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what *(a)* internal accountancy procedures and *(b)* computer programmes are in place to ensure that surcharge moneys paid by defendants in the criminal courts are kept separate from fines and compensation. [136785]

Ms Harman: When results from cases are input into existing magistrates courts computer systems, financial impositions are split to show the breakdown of compensation, Victims Surcharge, costs and fine. When payments are received this then enables the courts to identify at the end of the month the sum to be paid to a Victims Fund.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how implementation of freedom of information (FOI) legislation will be carried out by the new Ministry; which Minister is responsible for implementation of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; how the Ministry plans to continue the consultation on FOI fees amendments initiated by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs; and if she will make a statement. [137190]

Vera Baird: Arrangements for the operation and maintenance of the Freedom of Information Act within the Ministry of Justice remain the same as those in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA). The right hon. the Baroness Ashton of Upholland remains the Minister responsible for freedom of information, reporting to the Secretary of State for Justice.

The consultation on Draft Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007, initiated by the former DCA will continue as planned. Responses to the supplementary paper and any further comments on the draft regulations contained in the full consultation paper are still invited by 21 June 2007.

The Government remain committed to establishing a culture of freedom of information across the whole of the public sector, through advice, guidance and improved publication schemes.

Postal Voting

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the oral answer of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the hon.

Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 159, on postal voting, in what manner the regulations were not correctly drafted. [136998]

Bridget Prentice: As I mentioned in my written answer to the hon. Gentleman on 31 January 2007, *Official Record*, column 336W, there has been a difficulty with the legislative drafting in relation to signing for a ballot paper in a polling station. Additional measures to improve the security of postal voting were implemented in full for elections on 3 May 2007, as Parliament intended.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what estimate she has made of the number of additional prison officers required to negate the need for *(a)* contracted supplementary hours and *(b)* time off in lieu hours; and if she will make a statement. [137286]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No such estimate has been made, as it is Prison Service policy to recruit to full staffing levels and contract supplementary hours and time off in lieu are used only to address temporary staffing shortfalls in establishments. Both mechanisms are resourced from within the existing staffing budgets made available to establishments.

Prison Service: Property

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 87W, on prison service: property, what assessment she has made of local public opinion on the establishment of new prisons in *(a)* Maghull, *(b)* Belmarsh, *(c)* Featherstone, *(d)* London/Essex and *(e)* South Wales. [137455]

Mr. Sutcliffe: NOMS held public exhibitions over several days at Maghull and Belmarsh. A similar exhibition will be held for Featherstone. When sites have been identified in London/Essex and South Wales similar exhibitions are planned. Opportunities for assessments of public opinion are provided by the planning process, through which NOMS planning applications are made available to the general public. An opportunity for local MPs to assess public opinion arises when NOMS informs them of potential major prison planning developments as a part of its standard practice to keep MPs informed ahead of such developments.

Prisoners Release: Acquittals

John Hemming: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1420W, on prisoners release: acquittals, in what cases remand prisoners are entitled to *(a)* travel warrants and *(b)* housing benefit and council tax benefit and mortgage interest for a limited time. [136725]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All prisoners who are released from prison custody are issued with a travel warrant to an agreed destination. Housing and council tax benefit and mortgage interest are available on release in all cases where prisoners meet the eligibility criteria to receive these benefits. If a remand prisoner is already in receipt of these benefits they continue to be payable for up to 52 weeks or until conviction.

Prisoners: Government Assistance

John Hemming: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance is available to prisoners on release after serving their term. [136653]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On release all prisoners that serve a custodial sentence of more than 14 days receive a discharge grant of £46.

The Government are committed to ensuring that all prisoners are able to access resettlement programmes and practical support within the prisons and on release to effectively help them re-integrate back into the community.

Our cross-Government programme of work seeks to reduce re-offending by rehabilitating offenders so they are less likely to commit crime. This is being done by tackling the root causes of offending behaviour and working to reduce social exclusion. The priority is to ensure that offenders are able to access mainstream services and, in particular, have accommodation and sustainable employment on release.

Prisoners: Self-mutilation

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what provision is in place for the treatment of women prisoners deemed at risk of self-harm in settings outside the prison estate. [136683]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An assessment and care planning tool known as an Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork plan (ACCT) is opened for women (and men) prisoners identified at risk of self-harm in prison. If an at-risk prisoner is escorted out of the prison setting, the ACCT plan and its instructions to support the prisoner and keep them safe goes with them. Where risk is identified before a prisoner new to custody reaches prison, court or escort staff will open a suicide/self-harm warning form to keep the prisoner safe until they arrive at prison (where ACCT procedures are activated).

Prisoners: Sexual Offences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners convicted of a sex offence were released under the Home Detention Curfew scheme in each year since 1999. [137162]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of prisoners released from prison establishments in England and Wales on Home Detention Curfew for offences recorded as sexual in the years since 1999 can be found in the following table. The figures are taken

from volumes of the Prison Statistics in England Wales for the years between 1999 and 2002, and volumes of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics between 2003 and 2005. Copies of these volumes are available from the House of Commons Library and at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/oems.html

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system, and although shown to the last individual the figures may not be accurate to that level. As noted in the footnote to table 10.19 in the 2005 table, the reasons for recall from Home Detention Curfew are sometimes confused with the reason for the original imprisonment, and inquiries show that that is the case with the two sexual offenders in the table for that year. Further investigations suggest that around 5 per cent. of offence types recorded do not relate to the offence for which they were sentenced and subsequently released on Home Detention Curfew, but relate to offences committed after release from prison and before the licence expiry date for their sentence.

Prisoners released on Home Detention Curfew since 1999 who were serving sentences for sexual offences

	Number
1999	24
2000	29
2001	17
2002	20
2003	8
2004	6
2005	2

Voting Rights: Commonwealth

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether citizens of Commonwealth nations who are *(a)* expelled from the Commonwealth and *(b)* suspended from the Commonwealth who are residing in the United Kingdom with leave to remain are eligible to vote in UK elections. [137077]

Bridget Prentice: The Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that those entitled to register and vote in elections in the United Kingdom (UK) include citizens of Commonwealth countries who are lawfully resident here.

The definition of a Commonwealth country for electoral purposes is that it should be included as such in the list contained in schedule 3 to the British Nationality Act 1981. It follows that those citizens of a country that has been expelled or suspended from the Commonwealth who are lawfully resident in the UK remain eligible to vote in UK elections unless the 1981 Act is amended specifically to delete from schedule 3 the name of that country.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for which Government websites she is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135721]

Mr. McFadden: As part of the Government's website rationalisation strategy, the Cabinet Office is focusing its own internet presence on two websites—the civil service site (www.civilservice.gov.uk), and the Cabinet Office site (www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk). All other Cabinet Office websites will be closed by March 2011.

The following table contains a list of the websites for which Cabinet Office is currently responsible and the latest available numbers of visitors to each.

Website	Visitors[1] Period	Number
Civil Service (www.civilservice.gov.uk)	January-December 2006	242,196
Cabinet Office (www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)	April 2006-March 2007	757,502
Better Regulation Portal (www.betterregulation.gov.uk)	April 2006-March 2007	101,732
Government Communication Network (www.comms.gov.uk)	April 2006-March 2007	52,716
Chief Information Officers Council (www.cio.gov.uk)	April 2006-March 2007	90,743
UK Honours (www.honours.gov.uk)	April 2006-March 2007	142,034
UK Resilience (www.ukresilience.info) and Preparing for Emergencies (www.preparingforemergencies.gov.uk)	January-December 2006	265,485
Emergency Planning College (www.epcollege.gov.uk)	April 2006-March 2007	24,749
National Steering Committee on Warning and Informing the Public (www.nacwip.info)	April 2006-March 2007	5,600
Civil Service Pensions (www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk)	January-December 2006	73,227
Civil Service Recruitment Gateway (www. careers.civil-service.gov.uk)	October 2005-September 2006	683,130
Faststream (www.faststream.gov.uk)	September 2005-August 2006	289,130
GovTalk (www.govtalk.gov.uk)	May 2006-April 2007	635,775

[1] Specific days between June 2006 and March 2007 are not included due to technical issues

The Government Communication Network website was set-up in 2004-05 at a cost of £30,000;

The Civil Service Recruitment Gateway and Faststream sites have a combined maintenance cost of £90,972 per annum;

GovTalk has a maintenance cost of £21,600 per annum.

For all other Cabinet Office websites it is not possible to separate out costs for establishing or maintaining the websites because they were set-up using in-house resources

and sit on infrastructure shared with other external sites including the Advisory Commission for Business Appointments and the House of Lords appointments commission.

TREASURY

Departmental Hospitality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's expenditure on hospitality and entertainment was in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2005-06. [114108]

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133254]

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on hosting dinners and other social functions in each year since 1997. [134561]

John Healey: The Treasury classifies all expenditure on food and refreshments for visiting guests as 'official entertainment' including those served at meetings with, or receptions held for, external stakeholders and overseas visitors, and any costs incurred therein when booking rooms and catering staff. All such expenditure is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles set out in "Government Accounting". Relevant expenditure in 2006-07, subject to any adjustments arising from the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit of the department's 2006-07 resource accounts, was £197,000, a reduction of approximately £60,000 compared to relevant expenditure in 2005-06, and £15,000 compared to 2004-05.

For details of spending in earlier years I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answers given to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 14 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1833-34 and to the hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne) on 15 December 2004, *Official Report*, column 1084W.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people took sick leave for stress in his Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135463]

John Healey: In the 12-month period ending 31 March 2007, 27 people took stress-related sick leave, representing 2.4 per cent. of the total staff number.

Departments: Transfer of Questions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to other Departments for written answer have been transferred to his Department since May 2006; [137045]

(2) how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to his Department for written answer have been transferred to other Departments since May 2005. [137046]

John Healey: 624 written questions have been transferred from the Treasury to other Departments since May 2005. Treasury Ministers answered 9,147 written questions in the same period.

Information relating to the number of questions transferred from other Departments to the Treasury is not available. However, officials believe transfers in to be roughly in balance with transfers out.

Gift Aid

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of Gift Aid payments were made to overseas development charities in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; [137007]

(2) what methodology his Department used to measure the effectiveness of Millennium Gift Aid in 2000 in raising money for overseas development charities. [137008]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not record the type of charity for Gift Aid claims. The information requested on the percentage of payments made to overseas development charities is not available and could not be obtained without disproportionate cost.

No evaluation has been produced of the Millennium Gift Aid (MGA) scheme and HMRC do not retain separate statistics for MGA donations.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 26 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. L. Rowe. [137328]

Ed Balls: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Tax: Self-Assessment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on tax: self-assessment, for what reason the figure for penalties paid for the year to end October 2006 is not available; when he expects the data to become available; and if he will publish the data once available. [136307]

John Healey: The Debt Management and Banking annual accounting figures go through a validation process which for the 2006 figures will be complete by the end of June 2007.

Once this process is completed HMRC will release the requested information.

Taxpayers: Charitable Donations

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of individual donations received by all UK charities in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06 was given by UK taxpayers. [137005]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The information requested can not be provided as HM Revenue and Customs only collects data on those donations which qualify for tax relief. It is estimated that about one-third of donors to charities used Gift Aid in 2004-05.

VAT: Care Homes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to change the application of VAT rules on the new build of care facilities. [137313]

John Healey: VAT is not chargeable on the construction of new buildings used for a relevant charitable purpose or for the provision of residential care to elderly or disabled people. Similarly, the construction of a hospice for a charity is zero-rated. However, should a care home be intended for use as a hospital or similar institution, VAT is chargeable at the standard rate of 17.5 per cent.

A reduced VAT rate of 5 per cent. applies to the conversion of a non-residential building into a communal residential building, such as a care home, if the care home is not intended for use as a hospital or similar institution.

Under agreements with our European partners, entered into by successive Governments, we are not able to extend existing VAT zero rates or introduce any new ones. While the application of VAT reliefs and reduced rates is also limited by these agreements, all taxes are kept under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people claimed tax credits in each of the last five years, broken down by occupational group; and what proportion of total claims each group represented. [137233]

Mr. Timms: New tax credits were introduced in April 2003 and have just entered their fifth year of operation. Information on the number of people claiming tax credits in 2003-04 and 2004-05 is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-annual-0405.pdf

Figures for 2005-06 are due to be published on 22 May. Information on the number of claimants broken down by occupational group is not available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Afghan government on its proposed legislation on immunity from prosecution. [137140]

Mr. McCartney: We are monitoring the situation closely with our EU and international partners and have agreed a policy of quiet diplomacy over the implementation of the Act itself. We will also be using appropriate opportunities to clearly set out our position on human rights to ensure the Afghan population and government is in no doubt where the EU stands on important human rights matters.

The amended Act, unlike the original Bill, does not affect the right of victims and their families to bring criminal claims against persons "with respect to individual crimes".

Canada

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she last met the Canadian high commissioner; and what the subjects of discussion were on that occasion. [136682]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Canadian high commissioner informally at the Lord Mayor's Easter banquet reception on 18 April, where they discussed a range of international issues including climate change, recent developments in Canada, UN and Afghanistan.

Chechnya

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she is having with her Russian counterpart on the latest developments in Chechnya. [137326]

Mr. Hoon: The situation in Chechnya, and the wider North Caucasus, remains an issue of importance in our ongoing bilateral and EU discussions with Russia. With EU partners, we last discussed the latest developments in Chechnya with the Russian Government at the EU/Russia Human Rights Consultations on 3 May.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [136650]

Mr. McCartney: The political situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has yet to settle since the elections of 2006. A new government and parliamentary institutions are in place, but have yet to tackle meaningfully the multiple challenges which face DRC, particularly ongoing conflict in the east, poverty reduction and security sector reform.

The needless violence in Kinshasa in March and the lack of space for the political opposition shown by the new government have dented the population's confidence in the democratic process. That confidence must be restored.

We make clear to the government that there should be sufficient political and legal space in which the opposition can operate, and that freedom of expression should be widened and respected. We are also working closely with DRC parliament to help it fulfil its role of ensuring accountability and respect for constitutional government. I met with a group of Congolese parliamentarians from a cross-section of political parties in March when they visited the UK to see how the opposition works. They learnt about our procedures, systems and financing, in order that they use the ideas to develop their own legislation and procedures.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her counterpart in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the political situation in that country; and if she will make a statement. [136804]

Mr. McCartney: We have regular discussions with President Kabila and the new Congolese Government regarding the political situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions with the newly appointed Congolese Foreign Minister.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development met President Kabila, Foreign Minister Nyamwisi and Prime Minister Gizenga during his visit to the DRC on 22-24 April. He stressed to them that during this critical time for the DRC they need to strengthen their fledgling democracy, including through tolerance of peaceful political opposition and respect for freedom of expression, and eschew the path of violence.

Diplomatic Service: Security

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to announce the outcome of the review which is considering options around replacing armed forces' close protection teams protecting diplomatic staff with private sector security companies. [137099]

Mr. Hoon: No such review is taking place beyond the normal processes of ensuring that long-term services continue to provide value for money. This applies to all services, including close protection, provided by the Government and the private sector.

Embassies

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of running and maintaining the UK embassies in each of the last five years. [132742]

Mr. Hoon: The following table outlines the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) total overseas cost over the last five financial years. Total overseas costs consist of salaries, other direct costs, local and central overheads and programme. These totals are therefore "running costs plus". We are not currently able accurately to disaggregate these figures. FCO programme costs include expenditure on the BBC World Service that supports FCO strategic priorities throughout the world.

The table also includes the FCO's total administrative budgets from the latest FCO departmental report, published May 2007. The current reporting system provides a consolidated figure for UK and overseas administration (running) costs. Copies of the FCO departmental report are available in the Library of the House.

£

Financial year	*Total overseas costs*[1]	*Administrative budget for the FCO*
2001-02	562,950,417	662,000,000
2002-03	687,751,006	703,000,000
2003-04	697,971,352	706,000,000
2004-05	800,380,982	746,000,000
2005-06	838,487,330	815,000,000

[1] Consists of: salaries; other direct costs, local and central overheads and programme.

Estonia

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of recent attacks on Estonian Government websites; and if she will make a statement. [136965]

Mr. Hoon: I am aware of recent media reports on cyber attacks on Estonian Government websites. Our embassy in Tallinn has been following the situation closely.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterpart in Estonia on *(a)* the removal of the Bronzed Warrior and *(b)* desecration of war graves in Tallinn; and if she will make a statement. [137026]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the Bronze Soldier issue with the Estonian Foreign Minister. The relocation of the Bronze Soldier and associated war graves was an internal Estonian issue. We recognise the right of the Estonian Government to relocate war memorials and war graves and we note that this has been done with due sensitivity and respect. Our embassy in Tallinn has been following events closely.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Russian Government on relations between Russia and Estonia; and if she will make a statement. [136966]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any recent representations to the Russian authorities on Estonia-Russia relations. The Government fully support the EU presidency

statement of 2 May and the NATO statement of 3 May following a dispute over the relocating of a war memorial in Tallinn, which expressed grave concern over the safety of the Estonian embassy and its staff in Russia and urged Russia to address the dispute through dialogue. We recognise the right of the Estonian Government to relocate war memorials and war graves and see this as an internal matter for Estonia.

Human Rights Council

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK Government's position is on the candidacy of Belarus for the 17 May elections for the UN Human Rights Council. [136524]

Margaret Beckett: We continue to have deep concerns at the deteriorating human rights situation in Belarus, including Belarus' failure to co-operate with the UN human rights mechanisms; its failure to conduct free and fair elections, including the detention and arrest of political and civil society activists; and persistent reports of harassment and closure of non-governmental organisations, national minority groups, independent media outlets, religious groups, opposition political parties and independent trade unions.

We do not consider that countries whose human rights situations continue to be of deep concern fulfil the criteria for membership of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC).

The UN General Assembly resolution establishing the HRC in March 2006 sets out clear expectations of the Council's members, including that they "uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights". We fully support these expectations of the Council's members. We urge all members of the General Assembly, responsible for electing the HRC membership, to take candidates' performance against these standards fully into account when casting their votes. European Union member states have publicly committed only to support those states who meet these standards, and who contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights.

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if she will make a statement on progress in the search for Bosnian Serb war-crime suspects Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic; [136521]

(2) what assessment she has made of *(a)* Serbia's and *(b)* Montenegro's cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the detection and arrest of fugitive indictees Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. [136522]

Mr. McCartney: The chief responsibility for the detention and arrest of fugitive indictees Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic rests with the Governments of Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Their progress in this regard is assessed by Carla Del Ponte, the Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

The Chief Prosecutor's most recent assessment, delivered to the UN Security Council on 15 December 2006, was that Serbia's and Bosnia-Herzegovina's co-operation with the ICTY was not satisfactory but that there were no significant problems with Montenegro's co-operation. We are a strong supporter of the ICTY and continue to make clear to countries of the region their obligation to co-operate fully with the Tribunal as emphasised in UN Security Council Resolution 1534. In February, my right. hon. Friend the Minister for Europe delivered this message in Belgrade to the President and Prime Minister of Serbia.

Iran: Human Rights

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports she has received on the situation of the Baha'i community, *(b)* the [redacted] Bihnam Saltanat Akhdari and Shah Baygum Diqhani, *(c)* the treatment of Baha'i children in educational establishments, *(d)* the treatment of the family home of Mr. Dhabihu'llah Mahrami following his death and *(e)* the media treatment of the Baha'i faith in Iran; and if she will make a statement. [136691]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned about the treatment of the Baha'i community in Iran; Iranian Baha'is continue to face discrimination and intimidation. We receive regular updates on their situation from the National Assembly of the Baha'is of the United Kingdom.

Recent reports about the murder of two elderly Baha'i women, Bihnam Saltanat Akhdari and Shah Baygum Diqhani, and the persecution of Baha'i school children are particularly worrying. We are currently trying to find out more information about this and we will take further action as appropriate. We understand that Mr. Dhabihu'llah Mahrami died in custody on 15 December 2005. Mr. Mahrami's case had previously appeared on the EU list of cases of concern used in the EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue. The EU raised the death of Mr. Mahrami in a meeting with the Iranian authorities on 31 January 2006 and handed over a note verbale requesting further information. We have not received specific reports about the treatment of the family home since his death, but would be prepared to consider further action as appropriate. We are also concerned about reports that Iranian newspapers, including hardline *Keyhan*, have been carrying out a propaganda campaign against the Baha'i community. We raised our concerns about this in an EU démarche last year.

The Government continues to press the Iranian authorities to take seriously their international human rights obligations, uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief, as described in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and address the discrimination suffered by Iranian Baha'is. We were pleased that all EU countries co-sponsored a resolution about the human rights situation in Iran at the UN General Assembly in December last year which expressed serious concern at

"the disregard of property rights, including through de facto expropriation as noted in the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing"

and

"the escalation and increased frequency of discrimination and other human rights violations against members of the Baha'i Faith".

Iraq

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her oral answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1360-1, on Iraq, where in their evidence sessions *(a)* John Scarlett and *(b)* John Williams referred to the draft dossier of 9 September 2002; and whether the draft dossier was seen by Lord Hutton. [136509]

Margaret Beckett: During oral questions on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1360-1, reference was made to both the dossier on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and a draft compiled by John Williams. In oral evidence to the Hutton inquiry, John Scarlett made reference to the Williams' draft 26 August 2003, *Official Report*, column 59; John Williams gave evidence on his role in the drafting of the published dossier 14 August 2003, *Official Report*, columns 189-90. I refer the hon. Member to the transcripts available on the Hutton inquiry website

www.the-hutton-inquiry.org.uk

During his inquiry, Lord Hutton had access to all documents he wished to see. There is no question of the existence of the Williams' draft being hidden from the inquiry.

Iraq: Administration of Justice

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Iraqi authorities on the implications for human rights of court proceedings to review sentences handed down which can impose the death penalty on an offender originally sentenced to a custodial sentence. [136686]

Mr. McCartney: All criminal defendants in Iraq can choose to appeal their sentences. A separate panel of judges will then review their case and any relevant submissions made by the defence counsel. Under Iraqi law the appeal court may conclude that a more severe sentence is appropriate and impose the death penalty in cases where this sentence is available.

The United Kingdom is firmly against the use of the death penalty in all cases and under any circumstance. Since the Iraqi Interim Government re-introduced the death penalty with effect from 7 August 2004, we have regularly pressed our policy of opposition to the death penalty in all cases and circumstances at the highest level, including with the Iraqi President and Prime Minister.

Iraq: Christianity

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Iraqi Government on the treatment of Christians in that country; and if she will make a statement. [136830]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to press the Government of Iraq to improve security for all Iraqis, including Christians, in our regular contacts with them. We also remain in regular touch with representatives of Iraq's Christian communities in Iraq and the UK. We are deeply concerned about ongoing violence and the impact it is having on Iraq's Christians and other communities.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of standards of policing in Basra; and if she will make a statement. [136479]

Dr. Howells: Assessments have been made of the capability of Iraqi police stations and units in Basra, using criteria agreed with the Government of Iraq and the multi-national force. Judged by these criteria, over 80 per cent. of police stations in Basra city are assessed as being largely or fully capable of carrying out their essential duties.

However, the Basra police continues to face significant challenges, particularly in the areas of serious corruption, militia infiltration and leadership. It will be vital for the Iraqis to address these problems in order to create a secure environment for the local population, and the Government are providing advice to help them in this task. The Serious Crimes Unit of the Basra police was widely associated with violent corruption, and was disbanded in December 2006. A functioning Iraqi Department of Internal Affairs, reporting directly to the central government, has been established to investigate, arrest and prosecute corrupt police officers. The UK is supporting the work of this unit directly. In addition, UK police mentors are actively engaged in building the leadership and specialist skills of the Basra police.

Iraq: Religious Freedom

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the numbers of Christians *(a)* killed, *(b)* displaced and *(c)* otherwise persecuted in Iraq since the invasion of that country. [136825]

Dr. Howells: Maintaining such records is a matter for the Government of Iraq. While there are no comprehensive or reliable figures available on the number of Christians killed, displaced or persecuted since 2003, the International Organisation for Migration estimates that 7 per cent. to 8 per cent. of people internally displaced in Iraq in 2006 were Christians.

We remain deeply concerned about the impact of violence on all Iraqis. We continue to press the Government of Iraq to improve security and support international efforts to care for those affected by violence. Since the beginning of 2007 we have allocated £10 million for the humanitarian effort co-ordinated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and International Committee of the Red Cross.

Kosovo

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects the Kosovo final status process to be concluded; and if she will make a statement. [136520]

Mr. McCartney: The UN Special Envoy submitted his final settlement proposals to the UN Security Council on 26 March. We believe the Council should quickly follow up on these proposals with a resolution that would pave the way for their implementation. We are currently negotiating with our Security Council partners in New York to that end.

My right. Hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will keep the House appraised of developments.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she will reply to the letter dated 1 May 2007 from the hon. Member for Billericay on the subject of the oral answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1360-1, on Iraq. [136944]

Margaret Beckett: I replied to the hon. Member's parliamentary question (UIN 136509) today. A reply to his letter will follow shortly.

Pakistan: Peace Negotiations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of how the 2006 agreement between Pakistan and militants in North Waziristan is working; and if she will make a statement. [136685]

Dr. Howells: We continue to receive reports of Taliban influence in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. We share Pakistan's concern about this. We continue to monitor the results of the peace agreement signed in September 2006 with tribal elders in North Waziristan Agency and its effect on the likely number of Taliban and pro-Taliban fighters crossing and re-crossing the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in the region of North Waziristan.

Papua: Politics and Government

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Indonesian Government on special autonomy status for Papua and West Papua. [137100]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made representations to the Government of Indonesia about Papua. However, our embassy in Jakarta regularly discusses Papua with the Indonesian authorities. During his visit to Indonesia in March 2006, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister expressed the UK's support for dialogue between the central Government and representatives of the Papuan people. We believe that full implementation of existing special autonomy legislation is the best way to proceed towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous Papua province.

Russia: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the Russian Government's adherence to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations; and if she will make a statement. [137231]

Mr. Hoon: The Government urge Russia, and all states, to uphold the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. We have been deeply concerned about the threat to the Estonian embassy in Moscow following a dispute over the relocation of a war memorial in Tallinn. We therefore fully support the EU presidency statement of 2 May and the NATO statement of 3 May which expressed grave concern over the safety of the Estonian embassy and its staff in Russia, asked Russia to respect the Vienna Convention and urged Russia to address the dispute through dialogue.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her *(a)* US and *(b)* Ethiopian counterparts regarding the security situation in Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [136516]

Margaret Beckett: We are in constant contact with our Ethiopian and US counterparts on the situation in Somalia.

We, along with our Ethiopian and US counterparts, agree that there is a real chance for the Somali people to reach a sustainable political solution for Somalia, based on the transitional federal charter; that there is an urgent need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1744; and that we should urge and support the transitional federal institutions and Government of Somalia in their efforts to lead an inclusive and representative political process in Somalia and to become an effective governing authority.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the number of Ethiopian troops operating in Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [136518]

Margaret Beckett: There are widely varying reports of the number of Ethiopian troops operating in Somalia. We do not know the exact figure as we have no presence in Somalia and we are not aware of Ethiopia confirming the numbers it has in Somalia. However, our best estimate at this stage is that there are likely to be around 4,000.

However, the Ethiopian action in Somalia has resulted in the Transitional Federal Government, the only mechanism through which to restore peace, stability and governance to Somalia, re-establishing itself in Mogadishu and securing authority over the rest of south and central Somalia.

We want Ethiopian troops to withdraw as soon as they can, as Ethiopia has said it wants to. The deployment of the African Union stabilisation force, authorised by UN Security Council Resolution 1744, will help create the conditions for this withdrawal to take place. This is an important step in maintaining security and preventing a return to civil war.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the Islamic Courts' influence and capability in Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [136525]

Margaret Beckett: The Union of Islamic Courts ceased to exist as an organisation after its collapse in December 2006.

The Government calls on all parties in Somalia to reject violence and commit to peaceful dialogue. The National Reconciliation Congress, which we want the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to convene as soon as possible, should offer the right platform for this.

Sudan: Terrorism

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the US authorities on the State Department report's description of the Sudanese regime as a strong partner in the war on terror. [136893]

Dr. Howells: The US State Department's Country Reports on Terrorism (2006) reflect the current views of the US government. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the Sudan section, or indeed any other section of this report, with the US government. The current situation in Darfur remains the focus of UK/US discussions on Sudan.

Written Questions

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to question 136509, on Iraq, tabled by the hon. Member for Billericay on 3 May 2007. [136946]

Margaret Beckett: I replied to the hon. Member today (UIN 136509).

Zimbabwe: New Partnership for Africa's Development

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the peer-review mechanism of the New Partnership for Africa's Development has been applied to Zimbabwe; and if she will make a statement. [136684]

Mr. McCartney: The New Partnership for Africa's Development Peer Review Mechanism is a voluntary process. Zimbabwe has not yet volunteered itself for review.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Stoke-on-Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been provided for the Supporting People programme in Stoke-on-Trent in the last 12 months; and what funding will be provided in the next 12 months. [136950]

Mr. Woolas: In 2006-07 Stoke-on-Trent received a £5,097,375 Supporting People programme grant. In 2007-08 this allocation was increased by 7.5 per cent. giving a grant of £5,479,678. Stoke-on-Trent also received a £330,816 Supporting People administration grant in 2006-07 and have been allocated the same amount in 2007-08 as a contribution towards the costs of running this programme. Communities and Local Government, as with most other departments across Whitehall, are currently in negotiation with Treasury regarding the future allocation of resources over the next spending review period. I am therefore unable to say, at this stage, what the Supporting People allocation will be for any local authority beyond 2008. However, both Communities and Local Government and Treasury attach a great deal of importance to this programme and will continue to support investment in supported housing.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of levels of deprivation in Stoke-on-Trent; and what funding she is making available to the Supporting People programme in response to this. [136951]

Mr. Woolas: As a result of the use of the Supporting People distribution formula in 2007-08 Stoke-on-Trent received a 7.5 per cent. increase in their Supporting People grant allocation.

The Supporting People distribution formula was used to inform the Supporting People allocations in 2007-08. Components of the index of multiple deprivation are used in the Supporting People distribution formula.

The index of multiple deprivation measures deprivation around the country. Stoke-on-Trent is ranked 18th (out of 354) on the rank of average score. This measure provides one indication of the level of deprivation within the local authority and takes on board both the most deprived and least deprived small areas within the locality to arrive at the average.

Departments: Information and Communications Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by her Department with outside suppliers in the last five years, as referred to in the answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 589-90W, on Information Technology. [135616]

Angela E. Smith: The latest figures on the five largest information technology contracts as referred to in the answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 589-90W, are as follows.

1. Contract for: Data Network Management and Support Services

(a) Original Estimate: £28 million

(b) Recent Estimate: £28 million

(c) Outturn cost: Not applicable contract completes in 2011

2. *Contract for: GASPS 3 (Logasnet)—Grants Authorisation System*

(a) Original Estimate: £3.018 million (To deliver system)

(b) Recent Estimate: £3.018 million (To deliver system)

(c) Outturn cost: £2.516 million (System delivered. But full outturn costs, which will include annual support and hosting charges, not applicable as contract completes in 2009)

3. *Contract for: Supporting People Local Interim System*

(a) Original Estimate: £3.6 million

(b) Recent Estimate: £4.6 million Contract Complete

(c) Outturn cost: £4.6 million

4. *Contract for: Maps on Tap Project*

(a) Original Estimate: £2.42 million

(b) Recent Estimate: £2.4 million

(c) Outturn cost: Framework contract ends in 2008.

5. *Contract for: Transactional ERDF and State Aid system (TESA)*

(a) Original Estimate: £1.5 million

(b) Recent Estimate: £1.43 million

(c) Outturn cost: not applicable as Contract ends in June 2007

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for which Government websites she is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135717]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) on 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 958W, for the list of websites under the Department's responsibility, and the annual running costs of those sites. I further refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 306W, for the numbers of visitors to the Department's sites in 2005-06.

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in her Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134835]

Angela E. Smith: During the last 12 months (for the period April 2006 to March 2007), one formal complaint of bullying was made and investigated by Communities and Local Government and its predecessor, the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister. We are not able to disclose whether or not it was upheld because of our confidentiality obligations.

Communities and Local Government has a policy of zero tolerance of discrimination, bullying and harassment on any grounds.

Electoral Register: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the accuracy of electoral registration for the Clayton-le-Woods North ward of Chorley borough. [136788]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

We are not able to make such an assessment.

However, the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a number of new provisions to ensure that electoral registers are now more accurate than ever before. These have included:

Imposing a new duty on Electoral Registration Officers to take all necessary steps to ensure a comprehensive and accurate register;

Increasing the time available for electoral registration to 11 days prior to polling day

Introducing performance standards for electoral services.

The Government are currently considering the effectiveness of the new measures and are keeping this area under review to identify initiatives that will further maintain the accuracy of the electoral register.

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the recently-published Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields report on precautionary measures to protect the public against exposure to extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields; and if she will make a statement. [137030]

Meg Munn: The Department notes the publication of the report by the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields and acknowledges the hard work that has gone into its production. The Government will need time to consider the implications of the report's conclusions and recommendations.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that local authorities make available *(a)* building inspectors' reports and *(b)* other relevant information for which they are responsible to providers of home information packs. [136032]

Angela E. Smith: Information on building regulations approvals, completion certificates and work carried out under competent person self-certification schemes is not currently required to be held by local authorities on a statutory public register. Communities and Local Government is currently consulting on proposals that would make this publicly available by October 2007.

We are working with the local government and private search sectors to improve access to local authority held data. For example, a consultation paper, 'Delivering Property Searches: Good Practice Guidance for Local Authorities and Personal Searchers', was published on 1 May.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider delaying the starting date for the home information packs to 1 June 2007. [136344]

Yvette Cooper: The launch date for home information packs is 1 June 2007.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it will be possible to sell a house privately without a home information pack being prepared. [136346]

Yvette Cooper: A Home Information Pack (HIP) is required where a residential property is marketed for sale to the public or a section of the public with vacant possession, other than for some exceptions set out in Part 6 of the Home Information Pack Regulations 2007.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued on the qualifications necessary to prepare the non-environmental sections of a home information pack. [136472]

Yvette Cooper: The Home Information Pack Regulations 2007 and the accompanying procedural guidance describe the documents that must be included in the pack and, where appropriate, the persons who may prepare those documents and the terms upon which they are prepared.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to bring forward delegated legislation setting out the responsibilities of *(a)* home owners, *(b)* relevant professionals and *(c)* prospective home buyers in relation to home information packs. [136473]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Act 2004 and the Home Information Pack Regulations 2007 set out the responsibilities of home owners and the relevant professionals in relation to home information packs. Prospective home buyers will benefit from the provision of information upfront, but will not have any legal responsibilities under the HIP legislation.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued on the acceptability of searches performed by *(a)* home owners and *(b)* other non-solicitors for the purposes of a home information pack. [136476]

Yvette Cooper: The Home Information Pack Regulations 2007 describe the content of searches that must be included in the pack and the terms upon which they are prepared. The accompanying procedural guidance was issued by the Department on 9 May. This provides further guidance on the requirements relating to searches.

Oil Firing Technical Association

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to undertake a review of the Oil Fired Technical Association self-certification scheme; and if she will make a statement. [136615]

Angela E. Smith: The Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC) operates competent person self-certification schemes authorised under the Building Act 1984. It is only this part of OFTEC's activities that Communities and Local Government has powers to review.

There are currently no plans for specific review of the OFTEC schemes. However, we are currently reviewing the conditions of authorisation of all competent person schemes. As part of that review we are considering the scope for requiring schemes to achieve United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accreditation against the conditions of authorisation. UKAS would then periodically review all schemes on the Department's behalf.

Shropshire County Council

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how her Department is engaging with stakeholders on the unitary bid made by Shropshire county council. [136601]

Mr. Woolas: As set out in the consultation document "Proposals for Future Unitary Structures: Stakeholder Consultation", which was published on 27 March, we are seeking views from key partners and stakeholders that have an interest in the areas affected by the proposals. However, it is open to anyone to respond to the consultation document and we will carefully consider all comments and representations, together with any other information that we may receive, before decisions are made.

Communities and Local Government Ministers and officials are also prepared to meet with representatives from affected principal councils as part of the consultation process.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many project licences he issued under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; and how many abstracts his Department has published relating to these project licences; [135896]

(2) how many project licences authorising procedures on non-human primates he issued in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; and how many abstracts his Department has published relating to these project licences. [135897]

Joan Ryan: The details sought are in the table.

It should be noted that the publication of project licence abstracts was phased in during 2005 following the introduction of a revised project licence application form. The revised form makes provision for applicants to submit abstracts of their proposed programmes of work on a voluntary basis for publication after granting of the licence. Because of the phasing in of the new system, not all applicants for project licences granted in 2005 would have used the revised application form or had an opportunity to provide an abstract.

	2005	2006
Projects granted	528	524
Abstracts published	213	411
Projects authorising the use of primates	22	6
Abstracts published relating to the use of primates	4	3

Asylum Seekers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children of asylum seekers have been taken into care in each of the last six years. [115982]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of children of asylum seekers who have been taken into care is not collected centrally.

Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1576W, on corporate manslaughter and corporate homicide, if he will list the *(a)* stakeholders and *(b)* other correspondents from whom he has received representations on the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill since it was published. [136962]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

As the Minister responsible for the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill I, as well as the department, have had contact with a number of individuals and organisations in relation to the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill since it was published, many of whom are listed among those who responded to the joint Home Affairs and Work and Pensions Committee inquiry into the draft Bill (a copy of all the evidence given is available in the Library).

We do not have a definitive list of those who have contacted us since the publication of the Bill but it would include trade unions, industry groups, law firms, individuals and Members of both Houses.

Courts: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 6-7W, on courts: Nottingham, when he expects the assessment of the impact of powers under section 178 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to be completed. [136565]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

The assessment of the impact of powers under section 178 is due to be completed this month with a view to the affirmative order extending section 178 to the 11 new community justice courts being laid before Parliament and debated before the summer recess.

Crime: Anti-social Behaviour

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of his Department's use of targets on levels of crime and antisocial behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [136753]

Mr. Coaker: In 2004 the Home Office agreed a Public Service Agreement (PSA) in which a national target for crime reduction for the 2004 spending review period was set out. The Home Office cascaded this target to local areas by negotiating individual crime reduction targets with every Crime and Disorder Partnership (Community Safety Partnerships in Wales), and, since these targets were established, practitioners both locally and nationally have been working towards their delivery.

During the spending review period to date, crime has fallen by 10 per cent. compared to the 2002-03 baseline, as measured by the British Crime Survey to the end of December 2006. A similar national target was established for antisocial behaviour; perceptions of antisocial behaviour have fallen from 21 per cent. to 18 per cent. since 2002-3.

The current set of PSAs are in their final year: from April 2008 it is proposed that a new set of Government PSAs will come into operation. As part of the process for establishing the successor to the existing crime reduction target, the Home Office is reviewing the impact of the targets that have gone before and what the most appropriate targets will be going forward.

Ian Huntley

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Lord Chancellor's recently stated opinion on the minimum period that Ian Huntley should spend in prison is Government policy; and if he will make a statement. [130579]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

No. The Government do not have a policy on this matter, which is for the courts and the Parole Board. Until December 2003 Ministers were responsible for setting tariffs for mandatory life sentences but since then this responsibility has passed to the courts.

Once the minimum term has been served an offender is entitled to have his detention reviewed by the independent Parole Board. No life sentence prisoner can expect to be released unless and until the Parole Board is satisfied that continued detention is no longer necessary for the protection of the public.

Ian Huntley was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 40 years for the murder of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman and his suitability for release will be considered by the Parole Board on completion of the minimum term. However, when setting the minimum term the judge said his order for a minimum of 40 years to be served "offers little or no hope of the defendant's eventual release".

Identity Cards

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to publish his six monthly report to Parliament on the costs of the identity cards scheme. [135138]

Joan Ryan: The latest identity cards scheme cost report was published on 10 May 2007.

Lie Detectors: Jeremy Bamber

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the implications for his detention of the passing of a polygraph test by life prisoner Jeremy Bamber; and if he will make a statement. [136477]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

There is no impact upon Mr. Bamber's custody as a result of his recent polygraph test. He remains a life sentence prisoner with a whole life tariff. This means that he is not eligible for a Parole Board review to consider his release.

Mr. Bamber may if he wishes make a further application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, which is the independent non-departmental body established to review alleged miscarriages of justice and they will consider any application made and decide whether a case should be referred to the appeal court. It is only the appeal court that can quash a conviction.

Offensive Weapons: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were recorded involving knives in the Cambridgeshire constabulary area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [136228]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences which are knife related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

Figures are collected for homicides involving the use of sharp instruments but they do not separate knife-related offences. As from April 2007, police forces will provide data on knife-enabled grievous bodily harm and robbery offences.

Open Prisons: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have absconded from open prisons since November 2006. [133979]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is set out in the following table and covers the period from 1 December 2006 to 31 March 2007. There have been 167 absconds from all open prisons, in England and Wales, during this period. Figures for 2006-07 are provisional and subject to validation.

Absconds from all open prisons, in England and Wales, 1 December 2006 to 31 March 2007

Month	*Number of absconds*
December 2006	43
January 2007	30
February	42
March	52
Total	167

Prison Service: Compensation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the special payments made by the Prison Service increased from £9,196,000 in 2004-05 to £16,589,000 in 2005-06; and if he will provide a breakdown of such payments by main category of expenditure. [135337]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The increase in the special payments in 2005-06 as against 2004-05 resulted from a doubling of the number of claims that were settled in excess of £100,000 and the inclusion of one claim where the settlement was £2,700,000. The average value of the settlement of smaller claims (under £10,000) also increased from just under £860 to £1,600.

Prison Service: Working Hours

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Prison Service expects to end the use of the Contract Supplementary Hours scheme; and if he will make a statement. [126331]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

There are no plans to end the Contact Supplementary Hours (CSH) scheme. While the Service remains committed to filling all funded posts, the time delays involved in between recruitment and delivery to a fully trained officer is considerable (usually six months). Often this delay is inconsistent with a short term operational need, such as the requirement to open new accommodation, in response to a sudden rise in the prison population or the need to re-role an establishment at short notice. Accordingly CSH has become an essential tool to maintain the operational capability of the Service, being essential to filling staff vacancies prior to recruitment. Participation on the scheme by individual staff members is entirely voluntary.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many escaped and absconded prisoners remain at large; and on what date each such prisoner originally escaped custody. [133980]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The numbers of escapes and absconds from prisons is at its lowest level in the last 10 years, despite an increasing population. While the Prison Service holds accurate records of prisoners who escape and abscond, it does not hold central data on recaptures and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Work is currently under way to develop this capability.

Prisons

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners absconded from Sudbury prison in each month since 1 January; what category of offences had been committed by each of these prisoners; what the term of the prison sentence was in each case; on what date each absconded; and whether the prisoner remains at large in each case. [104295]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply:

The information requested is set out in the following table and covers the period from 1 January 2006 to 31 March 2007. There were 92 absconds during this period.

Information on whether a prisoner is unlawfully at large can be inaccurate as it is reliant on the police notifying the Prison Service and the open prison being notified of the recapture. It is also possible for a prisoner to return to prison under another name.

The number of absconds from Sudbury (from 1 January 2006 to 31 March 2007)

Month	*Number of absconds*
January 2006	5
February	5
March	4
April	9
May	7
June	11
July	8
August	8
September	7
October	12
November	5
December	5
January 2007	4
February	1
March	1
Total	92

Schools: Crime

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many school pupils were arrested on school grounds in each year since 1997, broken down by offence; [133269]

(2) how many school children were arrested during school hours in the last year for which figures are available. [133280]

Mr. Coaker: Information on arrests held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform provides the number of persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity and main offence group within the 43 police force areas in England and Wales. Information is not collected centrally on the circumstances of the arrests.

Sentencing

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of lifer programmes in dealing with prisoners on an indefinite sentence of public protection with a short minimum term; [135849]

(2) how many and what percentage of prisoners on an indefinite sentence of public protection are part of a lifer programme; and if he will make a statement. [135850]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

HMPS offers a range of Accredited Programmes for Offenders based on their specific behavioural needs. Access to such programmes is not based on an individual's sentence or their status as a 'lifer'. There are no specific accredited offending behaviour programmes targeted directly and solely at 'lifers' or labelled as 'lifer programmes.'

Each individual currently serving an indeterminate sentence of Public protection will, at some stage of their sentence, have access to some or all of these behavioural courses. Of the 8,300 completions of accredited offending behaviour programmes (excluding therapeutic communities and drug programmes,) in custody in 2006-07, approximately 320 were by prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of public protection.

Theft: Dogs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dogs were reported as stolen in each police force area in England and Wales in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the previous three years, broken down by breed; how many of these dogs were recovered; how many people were prosecuted for the crime in the same period; and what sentence was imposed in each case where no legal proceedings are outstanding. [136794]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to separately identify those offences where a dog is stolen. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and they would be included within the 'other theft' offence classification. Similarly information is not available for prosecutions and sentencing.

Vetting

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for Criminal Records Bureau clearance checks for working with children there were in the last year for which figures are available; and how many of these applications were paid for by *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* individuals. [135688]

Joan Ryan: For positions which involve working with children, the Criminal Records Bureau's (CRB) Standard and Enhanced Disclosures will include a check against the Protection of Children Act list (POCA), where this is specifically requested by the employer or the registered body on the application form. In financial year 2006-07, the last period for which figures are available, there were 2,554,970 disclosures issued where a check against the POCA list had been requested.

It is for an employer to decide whether or not to bear the cost of a disclosure or to pass the cost on to an applicant. I am unable to confirm how many applications were paid for by the public purse or by the applicants themselves because such data are not collated by the CRB. Disclosures are processed free of charge for those who apply for voluntary positions.

Young Offender Institutions: Compensation

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims for compensation by inmates have been made against each HM young offender institution in England and Wales in each year from 2001-02 to 2006-07; how many have been successful; what amount of compensation was paid for each claim; and what the total cost was to the public purse. [132617]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The following table is based on figures collated centrally and indicates the number of prisoner claims received at those public sector establishments holding only young offenders (18-21) between 2004-05 and 2006-07. For establishments holding a mix of YOs and juveniles, or YOs and adults it is not possible to separate out those claims made by YOs. The table also shows the number of successful claims during the same period and the amounts of compensation paid. Figures prior to 2004-05 were not recorded centrally.

The total cost to the public purse in dealing with young offender litigation can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Each case is dealt with on its own merits and any remedial action that is identified to minimise further successful claims is, where appropriate, implemented.

	2004-05			2005-06		
Establishment	*Received claims*	*Successful claims*	*Compensation Paid*	*Received claims*	*Successful claims*	*Compensation paid*
Aylesbury	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deerbolt	3	1	300	3	1	500
Glen Parva	1	1	97,500	3	0	0
Northallerton	2	0	0	1	1	575,000
Portland	3	0	0	4	0	0
Reading	0	0	0	1	0	0
Rochester	1	0	0	3	1	3,000
Total	10	2	97,800	15	3	578,500

	2006-07		
Establishment	*Received claims*	*Successful claims*	*Compensation paid*
Aylesbury	0	0	0
Deerbolt	1	1	2,500
Glen Parva	1	0	0
Northallerton	1	2	7,614
Portland	2	2	31,250
Reading	0	1	2,100
Rochester	0	1	2,250
Total	5	7	45,714

Note:
Litigation claims can take several years to complete. Therefore the number settled each may differ to the number received in the same period.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many local partnerships are involved in the Screening and Intervention Programme for Sensible Drinking trailblazers scheme. [134882]

Caroline Flint: There will be at least nine local partnerships involved in the Identification and Brief Advice Trailblazer Programme; four in the North East and five in London and the South East. Additional partnerships may be involved because a primary care site or criminal justice site may be recruited from a neighbouring partnership area.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether primary care trusts which do not spend the money allocated for the Screening and Intervention Programme for Sensible Drinking on the programme itself will receive the same money for alcohol work the following year; [134883]

(2) whether the budget allocated to primary care trusts for the Screening and Intervention Programme for Sensible Drinking will be ring-fenced. [134884]

Caroline Flint: The Department has commissioned an Interventions and Brief Advice Trailblazer programme. A consortium, headed by St. George's Medical School and Newcastle university, is establishing a series of Interventions and Brief Advice demonstration projects in primary care and other health care settings, including accident and emergency, as well as criminal justice settings. This is an action research initiative, which is centrally funded. Payments are made in line with contracts made between the Department, the Consortium and with the individual providers. The funds are entirely separate from primary care trust allocations.

Ambulance Services

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of emergency calls the Ambulance Service responded to within eight minutes in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [135489]

Andy Burnham: Details of category A (immediately life threatening) calls received in England during 2005-06, and details of those answered within eight minutes—split between rural and urban services—are shown in the following table:

	Total category A calls	*Response within 8 minutes*	*Response within 8 minutes (Percentage)*
England	1,641,230	1,235,769	75.3
Of which			
Rural services	855,612	651,812	76.2
Urban Services	785,618	583,957	74.3

Individual calls are not categorised as rural or urban. Until 1 April 2006, individual national health service ambulance trusts were classified as urban or rural. Details of which ambulance trust fell into which category can be found in the NHS publication "Ambulance Services, England: 2005-06", which is available in the Library.

Audit findings have found reporting inconsistencies in some ambulance services, which means that the 75.3 per cent. figure for category A calls responded to within eight minutes ought to be treated with some caution, particularly when being used to compare performances against those in previous years. Again, more details can be found in "Ambulance Services, England: 2005-06".

"Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07" is due to be released in June 2007.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Ambulance Service stations *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [135509]

Andy Burnham: The information is not held centrally. The location and number of ambulance stations is a matter for individual national health service ambulance trusts to determine.

Arthritis: Drugs

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the evidential basis is for the statement made in the Musculoskeletal Service Framework that the year-on-year costs of TNF alpha inhibitors are likely to be offset by keeping patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) at work and reducing the need for them to claim incapacity benefits; what research her Department has funded on this topic; and what steps her Department is taking to enable people with RA *(a)* to remain in and *(b)* to return to work; [136377]

(2) what steps she has taken to ensure that the clinical assessment treatment services envisaged by the Musculoskeletal Service Framework include expertise in rheumatology to enable patients with rheumatoid arthritis to be diagnosed at the earliest opportunity. [136379]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The evidence for the statement is contained in the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) report "The use of modelling to evaluate new drugs for patients with a chronic condition: the case of antibodies against tumour necrosis factor in rheumatoid arthritis". A copy has been placed in the Library.

The National Co-ordinating Centre for Health Technology Assessment co-ordinates the HTA programme under contract from the Department.

The musculoskeletal services framework aims to enable people with rheumatoid arthritis to remain in, or return to, work by managing patient flows through primary and secondary care, shortening waiting times, and providing patients with better information to manage their condition.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure that the multidisciplinary clinical assessment treatment services contain the most appropriate mix of health professionals, including specialists in rheumatology.

Assaults on Staff

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the causes of physical assaults on hospital staff; and how many have been attributed to *(a)* drugs and *(b)* aggravated frustration with administrative procedures. [115717]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In April 2003 the National Health Service Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff.

The NHS SMS has assessed research into the causes of violence, in particular the Royal College of Psychiatrists National Audit of Violence 2003-05.

This research has contributed to the development and provision of guidance for the NHS and the development of conflict resolution training packages for all NHS front line staff, with specific packages being developed for the ambulance and mental health and learning disability environments.

Figures on the amount of physical assaults on NHS hospital staff attributed to drugs or aggravated frustration with administrative procedures are not collated centrally.

Asthma: Admissions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the standardised admission rate to hospitals for asthma was for each primary care trust in England in 2005. [136758]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the standardised admission rate for asthma for 2005 is not held centrally.

Asthma: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community-based specialists in the care of patients with asthma there are in the East of England strategic health authority area; and if she will make a statement. [136757]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for local NHS organisations to ensure that they have sufficient suitably qualified staff to deliver services to meet the needs of the communities that they serve.

Asthma: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many asthma patients in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust area have *(a)* a written personal asthma action plan and *(b)* a care plan; and if she will make a statement. [136756]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Blood

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations her Department received prior to 1990 from the World Health Organisation on the safety of imported blood from areas with a high prevalence of hepatitis; and if she will make a statement; [134906]

(2) what advice her Department received between 1977 and 1989 from the World Health Organisation on the safety of imported blood from the US; and if she will make a statement. [135266]

Caroline Flint: We are not aware of advice received from the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the safety of imported blood. The Department of Health and Social Security at the time supported the WHO policy that each country should be able to supply its own blood and blood products. Further information about the policy to be self sufficient in blood products is contained in the report, "Self-Sufficiency in Blood Products in England and Wales". A copy has been placed in the Library.

In 1975 a WHO resolution made a number of recommendations in relation to blood safety (resolution 28.72).

Carers: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on ring-fencing funding for the carers' grant; and if she will make a statement. [136985]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have received representations from councils, voluntary sector organisations and individual carers regarding the ring-fencing of the carers grant.

The carers grant is one of several grants which have had their ring-fencing removed. This is part of an overall Government initiative to give councils flexibility to focus resources on key targets. Local government have requested these freedoms for some time.

Carers are a high priority for Government and we are committed to ensuring they are supported. The grant remains a targeted grant and demonstrates our continued commitment to carers' services. We will continue to provide guidance on the Government's intention for the grant.

Childbirth

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1190W, on childbirth, in what form her Department holds information on the hospital episode statistics of maternity cases. [136498]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has made public the data it has available in "Maternity Statistics—England 2004-05", which was published in 2006 and copies of which are available in the Library.

Conflict Resolution Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the conflict resolution training provided by her Department has been since inception; and how many staff hours have been spent on such training. [115653]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collated centrally. The cost of provision of conflict resolution training for front line staff is borne by each national health service health body, individually. The amount of staff hours that have been spent on that training is also determined at a local level.

Dermatology

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the impact of recent trends in the number of secondary care referrals for skin conditions on the training of new consultant dermatologists. [134869]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is not responsible for setting curricula for health professional training; that is rightly the responsibility of the statutory and professional bodies. However, we do share a commitment with those bodies that all health professionals are trained so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a high quality health service to all groups of the population with whom they deal.

Diabetes

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Great Yarmouth were diagnosed with diabetes in each of the last 30 years for which figures are available. [135201]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on the numbers of people diagnosed with diabetes are not available in the format requested.

The table shows the number of patients diagnosed with diabetes identified by general practitioner practices in England and Great Yarmouth primary care trust (PCT), 2004-05 (the first year of data from this source) and 2005-06:

	2004-05[1]	*2005-06*[2]
England	1,760,000	1,890,000
Great Yarmouth PCT	3,663	3,901

[1] Source: 2004-05 Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) data published by The Information Centre for Health and Social Care This is the first year of data from this source.
[2] Source: 2005-06 QOF data published by The Information Centre for health and social care.
Notes:
1. *Diabetes prevalence* The disease register in QOF for diabetes does not include any patient below the age of 17.
2. *Coverage of QOF* Patients will contribute to the figures in QOF only if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF. Not all practices participate in QOF and some participate in some parts only (especially PMS practices who are paid under different arrangements for providing services which are part of QOF for GMS practices).

Doctors: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of doctors were employed in *(a)* trust grade and *(b)* staff grade positions in each of the past five years. [134107]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical and dental staff, showing staff grade and all trust grade staff[1,2] England at 30 September each year

Number (headcount) and percentage

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
All staff	77,031	80,851	86,996	90,630	93,320
Of which:					
Staff grade	5,255	5,255	5,467	5,527	5,937
Percentage of all doctors	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.4
Trust grade staff[1,2]	0	1,266	1,287	3,600	2,591
Percentage of all doctors	0	1.6	1.5	4.0	2.8

[1] This figure is made up of all the Trust Grade staff from the following grades: staff grade, registrar group, senior house officer and house officer.
[2] Historically trust doctors or other similar locally employed non-standard grades, were included within numbers in various grades in the census and not identified separately. Due to concerns following an unexpectedly large increase in the number of senior house officers recorded in the 2002 census, steps were taken to enable NHS trusts to identify trust doctors separately in their census returns.
Trust grade data should be treated with caution. Although specific codes for identifying trust doctors in the census have been made available, it appears that NHS organisations have not used these codes consistently.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental Workforce Census.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed by the NHS in (i) South Tyneside, (ii) the North East and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [134838]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Epilepsy

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions have been held with representatives of epilepsy specialist nurses; and if she will make a statement. [136708]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I met with representatives of Epilepsy Action, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Parkinson's Disease Society on 1 May to discuss specialist nursing for long-term neurological conditions. As a result of this meeting, the Department will be working with the voluntary sector to develop good practice guidance that makes the case for, and supports, the further development of specialist nursing roles.

GPs: Manpower

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners per head of population there were in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [134839]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of general practitioners per 100,000 population is shown in the following table for South Tyneside primary care trust (PCT), the North East and England. Information is collected by PCT and it is not possible to map this to a specific constituency.

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population for specified organisations, 1997 to 2006, England

Number (headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England										
All GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	28,046	28,251	28,467	28,593	28,802	29,202	30,358	31,523	32,738	33,091
All GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars per 100,000 population)	57.6	57.9	58.1	58.1	58.2	58.8	60.9	62.9	64.9	65.3
North East										
All GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	1,432	1,426	1,446	1,453	1,514	1,535	1,611	1,678	1,726	1,815

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population for specified organisations, 1997 to 2006, England

Number (headcount)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
All GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars per 100,000 population)	55.8	55.7	56.7	57.1	59.6	60.5	63.4	65.9	67.5	70.9
Of which:										
South Tyneside PCT										
All GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	—	—	—	—	84	84	88	88	97	100
All GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars per 100,000 population)	—	—	—	—	55.0	55.2	58.0	58.1	64.1	66.1

[1] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others

Notes:
1. Mid-year 2005 population estimates have been used for the 2006 organisation level calculations which are therefore subject to change.
2. Data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-06.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics ONS 2001 based population census

Health Professions: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was provided by her Department to the Health Professions Council to support its establishment. [133575]

Ms Rosie Winterton: According to our records the amount of funding that was provided to the Health Professions Council for its establishment was £3,804,467.38 between 2002 and 2004.

Health Professions: Length of Service

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average length of service was for practising NHS *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists and *(c)* hospital consultants in each of the last 15 years; [133395]

(2) what the average retirement age was for NHS *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* dentists and *(c)* hospital consultants in each of the last 15 years. [133399]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS paid to private health care providers in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2000-01 and *(c)* 2006-07. [134103]

Andy Burnham: Information on how much the national health service paid to private health care providers is not separately identified in the annual financial returns of primary care trusts (PCT), health authorities and NHS trusts for 1997-98 or 2000-01.

Information for 2006-07 is being collected this autumn as part of PCTs' annual accounts.

For information about expenditure on non-NHS bodies, which include private providers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 366W, to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley).

Heart Diseases/Cancer

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the survival rates from *(a)* heart attack and *(b)* all cancers were in (i) the most recent period for which figures are available, (ii) 1997 and (iii) 1987. [134158]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data to enable assessment of survival after heart attack are not collected centrally. However treatment for heart attack has been audited since 2002 in England. These data indicate that in 2002 the 30-day mortality rate following treatment for heart attack was about 11 per cent. For 2006, the figure was about 9.5 per cent.

Data source: Myocardial Infarction National Audit Project (MINAP)

No assessment has been made of survival rates from all cancers for the periods in question.

Information on one-year and five-year survival rates by individual cancer type is published by the Office for National Statistics. The information has been placed in the Library and is available of their website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=861&Pos=3&ColRank=1&Rank=374.

The last published information covers patients diagnosed with cancer between 1998 and 2001.

Compared with results for patients diagnosed during 1996-99, the five-year survival figures for patients diagnosed during 1998-2001 were around 2.5 percentage points higher for breast cancer in women and for colon cancer in both men and women. Survival for lung cancer increased slightly, by half a percentage point in men and by just over 1 percentage point in women. For prostate cancer, there was a rise of 6 percentage points, but much of this was due to the increasingly widespread use of prostate-specific antigen testing.

Heart Diseases: Rehabilitation

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology is used to assess the *(a)* quality and *(b)* effectiveness of cardiac rehabilitation services; what targets have been established in relation to cardiac rehabilitation; and if she will assess the merits of assessing the quality of such rehabiiitation services in terms of deaths avoided. [135310]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is an extensive body of evidence to support the effectiveness of cardiac rehabilitation.

The National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease (CHD NSF) published in 2000 contained some milestones and a goal for each hospital to reach. This goal stated that every hospital should ensure:

> that all people discharged from hospital with a primary diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction or after coronary revascularisation are offered appropriate cardiac rehabilitation;
>
> and
>
> that one year after discharge at least 50 per cent. of survivors are non-smokers, exercise regularly and have a body mass index of less than 30 kg/m2; these should be demonstrated by clinical audit data no more than 12 months old.

There is evidence including a Healthcare Commission review of the CHD NSF recommendations for cardiac rehabilitation published in March 2005 that there are some aspects of cardiac rehabilitation that need further improvements.

The need to achieve better information about patterns of service and uptake by patients is being addressed by a new National Cardiac Rehabilitation Audit. It is being developed across England to provide stronger evidence on quality and effectiveness and encourage local areas to appraise and improve their provision of cardiac rehabilitation.

Hospitals: Leeds

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the plans for a children's and maternity hospital in Leeds. [136297]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is the ambition of the national health service in Leeds to centre children's services on one new site in the city.

That is the stated aim of the Making Leeds Better programme and that remains the case.

The NHS in Leeds is working to ensure that it meets its next deadline which is for outline business case approval by December next year.

There will be no decisions on changes to health services in Leeds without full public consultation.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Health Services

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the standard of services and treatment available to people with *(a)* ulcerative colitis and *(b)* Crohn's disease; [136816]

(2) how many people were diagnosed with *(a)* ulcerative colitis and *(b)* Crohn's disease in each of the last five years. [136817]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of people diagnosed with either ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease is not collected centrally.

I have made no assessment of the standard of services and treatment available for those living with either ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease.

Information Prescriptions

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1711W, on information prescriptions, what criteria were used to select areas for information prescription charges. [112287]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is anticipated that information prescriptions will be delivered free of charge. The bidding criteria sent to prospective pilot organisations has been the basis for their selection.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1711W, on information prescriptions, how long she expects trials to last. [112288]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is currently planned that information prescriptions pilots will last for one year until January 2008.

Inter-authority Transfers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 44W, on inter-authority transfers, what criteria are used in determining whether to approve an inter-authority transfer. [131964]

Andy Burnham: In making inter-authority transfers (IAT), the Secretary of State acts on the advice of strategic health authorities. The requests to make transactions are made through monthly financial monitoring forms. In agreeing each IAT request, the Department validates the respective monitoring forms to ensure that all parties to the transaction have agreed the value, expenditure type and reason for the transfer. All discrepancies are remitted to the individual organisations concerned.

Junior Doctors: Paediatrics

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are taken to ensure that junior doctors (Foundation Year 2 and Senior House Officer) working in paediatrics complete a certified paediatric life support course before being on call in England. [133703]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The content and standard of postgraduate medical training is the responsibility of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board, which is the competent authority for postgraduate medical training in the United Kingdom. Its role is that of custodian of quality standards in postgraduate medical education and practice. It is not practicable or desirable for the Government to prescribe the exact training that any individual doctor will receive. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health recommends courses run by the Advanced Life Support Group which is a registered medical education charity.

Junior Doctors: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many post graduate training posts there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* for GP positions for junior doctors in each year since 1997. [134105]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of post graduate posts and junior doctors posts funded by the Department from the Medical and Dental Education and Training Levy (MADEL) from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are shown in the following table.

Number of MADEL funded posts, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Number of posts				
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total posts funded from MADEL	35,878	36,833	37,427	37,611	39,326
GP registrars and pre registration house officers funded from MADEL	2,402	2,726	2,911	2,902	2,902

Notes:
1. 2007-08 MADEL figures include 351 SHO posts and 527 SpR posts that are rebased from service.
2. Due to changes in methodology, MADEL figures are not available prior to 2003-04.

Source:
MADEL allocations data

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to increase the number of posts available for junior doctors applying for speciality training in 2007; and what help she plans to offer to junior doctors who do not get a training post this year. [134106]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is discussing with the medical Royal Colleges and postgraduate deans the opportunities to create additional training posts in 2007.

In addition, the Department is working up a package of measures with key stakeholders to support junior doctors who do not get a training post this year. Key stakeholders include the medical Royal Colleges, British Medical Association, strategic health authorities, postgraduate deans, deaneries, employers and NHS Employers.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the ratio of posts to applicants was for speciality training for junior doctors in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 1997; [134109]

(2) how many junior doctors applied for but did not obtain speciality training posts in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 1997. [134110]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Maternity Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to implement a separate payment by results tariff for neonatal transport; and if she will make a statement. [135457]

Andy Burnham: We have modified the reference costs collection for 2006-07 to separately identify patient transport services.

This would allow a separate tariff to be constructed for neonatal transport. The earliest date this tariff could be implemented is 2009-10.

However, we are currently consulting on the future of payment by results. No decisions will be made on a tariff for 2009-10 until this is completed. The "Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09-2010-11" consultation document was published on 15 March 2007. This is available in the Library.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1141W, what information her Department took into account in drawing up the four national choice guarantees in "Maternity Matters"; and what *(a)* information will be collected and *(b)* research will be undertaken to assist in implementing the guarantees by the end of 2009. [136499]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: "Maternity Matters" was drawn up to meet the key commitments on choice made in the maternity standard of the 2004 national service framework for children, young people and maternity services; the 2005 manifesto and the 2006 White Paper "Our Health, our care, our say". An indicator will be developed for "Maternity Matters" together with some baseline indicators being developed through the Healthcare Commission's local patient experience survey this summer.

The national health service operating framework 2007-08 includes maternity as an area for preparatory work by primary care trusts to support the commitments for 2009, using 2007-08 to assess current services, identify gaps and any barriers to service development and to set out their local strategy for meeting these commitments.

Medicine: Students

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether applicants to medical schools are asked about their views on *(a)* abortion, *(b)* contraception, *(c)* euthanasia and *(d)* assisted dying; and if she will make a statement. [135712]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All aspects of selection and admission are the responsibility of individual higher education institutions (HEIs) and medical schools. HEIs are independent, autonomous bodies responsible for their own assessment procedures and course arrangements. Ministers are precluded by legislation from intervening in their internal affairs.

Mentally Ill: Discharges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were *(a)* on supervision registers and *(b)* subject to supervised discharge in each year since 1997. [135879]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the numbers of people subject to supervised discharge at any one time is not available. The number of patients in national health service facilities since 1997 who became subject to supervised discharge is shown in the table.

	Number
1997-98	318
1998-99	445
1999-2000	562
2000-01	582
2001-02	582
2002-03	602
2003-04	608
2004-05	643
2005-06	615

Note:
No information is held centrally on the number of people on supervision registers.
Source:
Information Centre published data forms KH16 and KP90

Midwives

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were *(a)* trained and *(b)* recruited in each of the last three years; and what recent estimate she has made of the average distance travelled by an expectant mother to access (i) a midwife-led maternity unit and (ii) a consultant-led maternity hospital. [134414]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the number of students who entered training to be a midwife in the last three years.

The Department does not collect centrally information on how many of these were recruited into the national health service.

The average distance of a woman from a midwife led maternity unit is 10 (9.93) miles and the average distance of a woman from a consultant led hospital is five (4.75) miles.

NHS midwifery training places commissioned 2003-06

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Degree	753	895	1,042
Diploma	716	744	517
Other	757	735	661
Total	2,226	2,374	2,220

Source:
Quarterly Monitoring Returns

Modernising Medical Services: Resignations

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the head of Modernising Medical Services resigned; and if she will place a copy of his resignation letter and her response in the Library. [134108]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Professor Alan Crockard tendered his resignation as National Director for Modernising Medical Careers on 29 March 2007.

It is not intended to place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Multiple Sclerosis: Medical Treatments

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many multiple sclerosis specialist nurses worked in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [135313]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally. Multiple sclerosis specialist nurses are not separately identifiable in the work force census from the rest of the nursing work force.

NHS Resource Accounting and Budgeting Regime

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her statement of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 96-98WS, on the NHS resource accounting and budgeting regime, for what reason the £450 million contingency reserve is being allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in line with the resource allocation formula; how each SHA's share is calculated in relation to the resource allocation formula; and what each SHA's contribution to the £450 million contingency reserve has been. [131847]

Andy Burnham: The Department was clear that strategic health authorities (SHAs) should take a pragmatic and sensible approach to managing the finances in 2006-07, including the identification of a contingency.

The contingency is not new money provided by the Department. The package of NHS central programme budget funding was identified for SHAs as a single amount from which SHAs in agreement with local stakeholders developed plans on how best to deploy this funding. This allowed SHAs to set aside £450 million as a contingency.

The £450 million contingency was distributed to SHAs pro-rata to revenue allocation targets. The SHA level targets were calculated by aggregating the 2006-07 closing revenue allocation targets for each SHA's constituent primary care trusts. This is in line with other revenue allocations that are made using the fair funding formula that directs funding to towards those areas with the greatest need. This approach was agreed with SHAs.

NHS: Consultants

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid to consultants in fees and expenses by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the NHS in each year since 1997. [136983]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect information in such a way to identify the fees and expenses paid to consultants. Information on the fees and expenses of consultants in the national health service trusts is not collected centrally.

NHS: Contracts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what she expects the estimated change in costs to the NHS to be of implementing the new General Medical Services contract in each of the years to 2011-12. [135772]

Andy Burnham: The change in spend on primary medical care services, since the introduction of the new general medical services (GMS) contract in 2003-04, is shown in the following table.

Financial year	Total spend (£ billion)	Change in costs (£ billion)	Percentage
2002-03 (pre-nGMS baseline)	5.0	0	0
2003-04	5.8	0.8	16
2004-05	6.9	1.9	38
2005-06	7.7	2.7	54
2006-07 (estimated)	7.7	2.7	54

Note:
Estimates for 2007-08 onwards are not available.

NHS: Equal Pay

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial provision she has made to fulfil the terms of the Equal Pay Act 1970 in the individual budgets of *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* NHS trusts in the Eastern Region (i) in 2006-07 and (ii) in subsequent years. [127635]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are around 120 equal pay claims outstanding against national health service organisations in the NHS East of England area. It is not possible to estimate what, if any, additional cost will arise from these claims as there are a number of significant legal issues which need to be resolved before liability can be assessed.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1369W, on NHS: finance, what discussions gave rise to the confirmation with officials from the Welsh Assembly Government referred to in the answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1720W, on NHS expenditure; and when these discussions took place. [131971]

Andy Burnham: National health services expenditure data and population estimates for Wales were provided directly by the National Assembly for Wales.

This work was commissioned by Department in July 2006. Discussions were limited to agreeing time scales, and as noted in the previous answer (answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1720W), improving consistency by excluding expenditure on departmental administration.

However, detailed methodological discussions did not take place as Department has no authority over the work of Devolved Assemblies.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS expenditure in England was as a percentage of gross domestic product in each year since 1992; and what estimates she has made of NHS expenditure in England as a percentage of gross domestic product in each of the next 10 years. [134113]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not report on national health service expenditure in England as a percentage of gross domestic product.

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the gross deficit was of each NHS individual accounting unit in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by decile. [135902]

Andy Burnham: The information is as follows:

NHS organisation	2006-07 forecast outturn month 9 (£000)	2006-07 month 9 cumulative gross deficit (£000)	Decile marker	Comments
Hillingdon PCT	(59,099)	(59,099)		
Norfolk PCT	(41,543)	(100,642)		
Cumbria PCT	(38,300)	(138,942)	10th	Cumulative deficit totals 10 per cent. of total NHS gross deficit
Cambridgeshire PCT	(36,900)	(175,842)		
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	(36,079)	(211,921)		
North Yorkshire and York PCT	(35,000)	(246,921)		
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	(33,888)	(280,809)	20th	Cumulative deficit totals 20 per cent. of total NHS gross deficit
Suffolk PCT	(30,900)	(311,709)		
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	(30,405)	(342,114)		
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	(29,902)	(372,016)		
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	(29,800)	(401,816)	30th	Cumulative deficit totals 30 per cent. of total NHS gross deficit
Surrey PCT	(26,052)	(427,868)		
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	(25,619)	(453,487)		
West Herefordshire PCT	(24,321)	(477,808)		
East and North Herefordshire PCT	(23,527)	(501,335)		
Wiltshire PCT	(23,493)	(524,828)		

NHS organisation	2006-07 forecast outturn month 9 (£000)	2006-07 month 9 cumulative gross deficit (£000)	Decile marker	Comments
Kingston PCT	(22,500)	(547,328)	40th	Cumulative deficit totals 40 per cent. of total NHS gross deficit
Mid Essex PCT	(20,052)	(567,380)		
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	(19,986)	(587,366)		
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	(18,545)	(605,911)		
Brent Teaching PCT	(17,600)	(623,511)		
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	(15,800)	(639,311)		
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital NHS	(15,741)	(655,052)		
Buckingham PCT	(15,200)	(670,252)	50th	Cumulative deficit totals 50 per cent. of total NHS gross deficit
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	(14,802)	(685,054)		
Worcestershire PCT	(14,464)	(699,518)		
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	(13,900)	(713,418)		
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	(13,800)	(727,218)		
Sheffield PCT	(13,575)	(740,793)		
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	(13,500)	(754,293)		
West Kent PCT	(13,000)	(767,293)		
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	(13,000)	(780,293)		
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	(12,894)	(793,187)	60th	Cumulative deficit totals 60 per cent. of total NHS gross deficit
Sutton And Merton PCT	(12,700)	(805,887)		
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	(12,500)	(818,387)		
North Somerset PCT	(12,440)	(830,827)		
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	(11,956)	(842,783)		
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	(11,500)	(854,283)		
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	(11,100)	(865,383)		
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	(11,000)	(876,383)		
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	(10,986)	(887,369)		
Leicester City PCT	(10,900)	(898,269)		
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	(10,789)	(909,058)		
West Sussex Teaching PCT	(10,695)	(919,753)		
Coventry Teaching PCT	(10,500)	(930,253)	70th	Cumulative deficit totals 70 per cent. of total NHS gross deficit
Devon PCT	(10,452)	(940,705)		
Hounslow PCT	(10,305)	(951,010)		
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	(10,000)	(961,010)		
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	(9,800)	(970,810)		
Bexley Care PCT	(9,700)	(980,510)		
Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT	(9,500)	(990,010)		
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	(9,409)	(999,419)		
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	(9,022)	(1,008,441)		
North Lincolnshire PCT	(8,983)	(1,017,424)		
Warwickshire PCT	(8,950)	(1,026,374)		
Milton Keynes PCT	(8,801)	(1,035,175)		
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	(8,717)	(1,043,892)		
South Staffordshire PCT	(8,700)	(1,052,592)		
Northumberland Care PCT	(8,600)	(1,061,192)	80th	Cumulative deficit totals 80 per cent. of total NHS gross deficit

NHS organisation	2006-07 forecast outturn month 9 (£000)	2006-07 month 9 cumulative gross deficit (£000)	Decile marker	Comments
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	(8,500)	(1,069,692)		
Bedfordshire PCT	(7,853)	(1,077,545)		
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	(7,500)	(1,085,045)		
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	(7,500)	(1,092,545)		
Enfield PCT	(7,278)	(1,099,823)		
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	(7,277)	(1,107,100)		
Scarborough and NE Yorks NHS Trust	(7,200)	(1,114,300)		
Lewisham PCT	(6,500)	(1,120,800)		
Sandwell PCT	(6,373)	(1,127,173)		
University Hospitals Of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	(6,357)	(1,133,530)		
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	(6,300)	(1,139,830)		
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	(6,066)	(1,145,896)		
East Cheshire NHS Trust	(5,950)	(1,151,846)		
North Staffordshire PCT	(5,692)	(1,157,538)		
Yorkshire and The Humber Regional Ambulance Service	(5,608)	(1,163,146)		
Havering PCT	(5,601)	(1,168,747)		
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	(5,500)	(1,174,247)		
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	(5,363)	(1,179,610)		
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	(5,131)	(1,184,741)		
Kirklees PCT	(5,100)	(1,189,841)	90th	Cumulative deficit totals 90 per cent. of total NHS gross deficit
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	(5,000)	(1,194,841)		
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	(5,000)	(1,199,841)		
North East Essex PCT	(4,989)	(1,204,830)		
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	(4,949)	(1,209,779)		
Barnsley PCT	(4,734)	(1,214,513)		
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	(4,560)	(1,219,073)		
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	(4,453)	(1,223,526)		
Berkshire West PCT	(4,362)	(1,227,888)		
Newham PCT	(4,124)	(1,232,012)		
Gloucestershire PCT	(4,100)	(1,236,112)		
Oxfordshire PCT	(4,000)	(1,240,112)		
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	(4,000)	(1,244,112)		
Shropshire County PCT	(3,900)	(1,248,012)		
Croydon PCT	(3,800)	(1,251,812)		
Birmingham East and North PCT	(3,700)	(1,255,512)		
Barnet PCT	(3,615)	(1,259,127)		
South Gloucestershire PCT	(3,500)	(1,262,627)		
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	(3,400)	(1,266,027)		
Worcestershire MH Partnership NHS Trust	(3,084)	(1,269,111)		
Southwark PCT	(3,000)	(1,272,111)		
Waltham Forest PCT	(2,900)	(1,275,011)		
Manchester Health and Social Care NHS Trust	(2,845)	(1,277,856)		
Brighton and Hove City PCT	(2,627)	(1,280,483)		
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	(2,516)	(1,282,999)		
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	(2,500)	(1,285,499)		
Islington PCT	(2,404)	(1,287,903)		
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	(2,268)	(1,290,171)		

NHS organisation	2006-07 forecast outturn month 9 (£000)	2006-07 month 9 cumulative gross deficit (£000)	Decile marker	Comments
Cornwall and Isle of Scilly PCT	(2,000)	(1,292,171)		
York Hospitals NHS Trust	(2,000)	(1,294,171)		
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	(1,800)	(1,295,971)		
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	(1,526)	(1,297,497)		
Rob Jones and A Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	(1,503)	(1,299,000)		
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	(1,500)	(1,300,500)		
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	(1,500)	(1,302,000)		
Warrington PCT	(1,495)	(1,303,495)		
West Essex PCT	(1,400)	(1,304,895)		
Camden PCT	(1,400)	(1,306,295)		
Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust	(1,395)	(1,307,690)		
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	(1,250)	(1,308,940)		
The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	(1,115)	(1,310,055)		
Stockport PCT	(1,063)	(1,311,118)		
Solihull Care Trust PCT	(1,000)	(1,312,118)		
Ealing PCT	(1,000)	(1,313,118)		
Westminster PCT	(784)	(1,313,902)		
Greenwich Teaching PCT	(750)	(1,314,652)		
Southampton University Hospital NHS Trust	(700)	(1,315,352)		
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire MH Partnership	(650)	(1,316,002)		
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	(600)	(1,316,602)		
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	(477)	(1,317,079)		
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	(455)	(1,317,534)		
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust	(440)	(1,317,974)		
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	(250)	(1,318,224)		
South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Trust	(56)	(1,318,280)	100th	Cumulative deficit totals 100 per cent. of total NHS gross deficit

NHS: Secondment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1514W, on the NHS: secondment, whether her Department keeps a record of secondees from the NHS to other Government Departments. [136235]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not keep a record of secondees from the national health service to other Government Departments.

NHS: Vacancies

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which clinical specialties are experiencing shortages of practitioners; and how she plans to take this into account in forming policy on training posts in the NHS. [134452]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Forecasts of future work force supply at a national level (England) are undertaken by the Workforce Review Team (WRT) on behalf of the strategic health authorities (SHAs). Annual meetings are held by WRT with representatives from the SHAs, specialty, the Department and other key stakeholders to assess the present and future training needs of the work force. Annual recommendations to SHAs regarding future pre and post-registration training are produced following these meetings. Individual SHAs and deaneries are responsible for planning the medical training posts at local level, taking into account the analysis and recommendations of the WRT.

WRT produces proformas for each specialty and profession it reviews. These are updated regularly and contain the evidence on which the recommendations are based. These proformas can be viewed at:

http://www.healthcareworkforce.nhs.uk/workforcereviewteam.html

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts and SHAs to analyse their local situation and develop plans, in liaison with their local national health service trusts and primary care providers, to deliver high quality NHS services and take action to recruit and train the appropriate staff required to deliver these services.

Non-resuscitation

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been issued to NHS trusts on the steps which should be taken before a decision not to resuscitate a patient is taken. [111082]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department issued a circular in 2000 (HSC 2000/028) asking trusts to make sure that they have appropriate resuscitation policies which respect patients' rights and to audit these policies. It has also endorsed guidance on making resuscitation decisions drawn up by the Resuscitation Council, British Medical Association and Royal College of Nursing for health professionals and the public.

Nurse Training Commissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to encourage strategic health authorities to reverse the recent reductions in nurse training commissions, further to her Department's third draft of the NHS Pay and Workforce Strategy, dated 27 November 2006. [115006]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Strategic health authorities are expected to commission training places based on the work force needed to deliver services work required by patients. This will be reinforced by a service level agreement setting out the key priorities for them to address in 2007-08.

Nurses: Pay

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average nurse's wage was in each of the last 15 years. [135997]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows average earnings per full-time equivalent nurse for each year since 1997-98. The figures are determined from pay bill data from financial returns and staff numbers from the workforce census. Data for years prior to 1997-98 are not available on a comparable basis.

	Average pay for nurses (£)
1997-98	20,760
1998-99	20,972
1999-2000	22,280
2000-01	23,371
2001-02	24,673
2002-03	25,613
2003-04	26,236
2004-05	27,836
2005-06	29,010
2006-07	[1]30,507
2007-08	[1]31,826

[1] Figures are estimated projections and are subject to change.

Nurses: Training

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* general practitioners are in training in (i) South Tyneside, (ii) the North East and (iii) England; and how many were in each year since 1997. [134849]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of nursing training commissions for England and the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic Health Authority (SHA) is shown in the following table. Training commissions for Northumberland, Tyne and Wear is not comparable prior to 2003-04 due to SHA mergers.

Pre-registration nursing training commissions

	England			*Northumberland, Tyne and Wear*		
	Diploma	*Degree*	*Total*	*Diploma*	*Degree*	*Total*
1996-97	13,011	297	13,308	—	—	—
1997-98	14,429	297	14,726	—	—	—
1998-99	15,523	1,314	16,837	—	—	—
1999-2000	15,966	1,726	17,692	—	—	—
2000-01	16,779	2,144	18,923	—	—	—
2001-02	18,141	2,483	20,624	—	—	—
2002-03	18,980	2,543	21,523	—	—	—
2003-04	19,957	2,858	22,815	546	72	618
2004-05	19,993	3,384	23,377	552	123	675
2005-06	19,648	3,582	23,230	545	123	668

Source:
Non-medical education and training quarterly monitoring, Department of Health

The number of general practitioners registrars is shown in the following table.

General practitioners registrars for specified organisations, 1997-2002, England

Number (headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	1,343	1,446	1,520	1,659	1,883	1,980	2,235	2,562	2,564	2,278
North East	53	80	74	83	89	110	130	147	147	180

General practitioners registrars for specified organisations, 1997-2002, England

Number (headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Of which:										
South Tyneside Primary Care Trust	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	5	7	8

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics

Patients: Mortality Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the patient mortality rates were in each NHS Trust in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [134648]

Andy Burnham: Data showing mortality rates in each national health service trust in each year since 2001 have been placed in the Library.

Patients: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS policy is on the circumstances under which patient information may be provided over the telephone by NHS staff to people other than the patient. [123735]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Health Service Confidentiality Code of Practice, published in November 2003, provides guidance on required practice for those who work within or under contract to NHS organisations about the safeguarding of confidentiality, and patients' consent to the use of their health records.

The guidance includes an explanation of the main relevant legal requirements, and examples of appropriate information disclosure decisions in practice. The guidance applies equally to clinicians, managers, and all other staff in both primary and secondary care settings whose work involves access to personal information and, where appropriate, includes staff in the private and voluntary sectors.

A full version of the code can be downloaded from the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/06/92/54/04069254.pdf. The code has been endorsed by the Information Commissioner, the General Medical Council, and the British Medical Association. The code is applicable irrespective of the method by which patient information is supplied to a third party.

Strong disincentives exist which protect against abuse of patient confidentiality. NHS organisations are responsible, as employers, for the actions taken on their behalf by their employees, and for disciplining their staff when they behave inappropriately. Accessing personal information without a legitimate reason constitutes a breach of the code. Staff who breach patient confidentiality are subject to professional disciplinary measures. Offending doctors and nurses will be reported to their professional regulatory bodies and may face additional disciplinary action, including losing their licence to practice. Separate legal penalties for individuals and organisations misusing personal health and other information are provided for under section 60 of the Data Protection Act.

Robotic Prostatectomy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many NHS trusts there are facilities to perform robotic prostatectomy, referred to in her Department's report Saws and Scalpels to Lasers and Robots, published on 17 April 2007; and whether the facilities in each trust were purchased *(a)* entirely with NHS funds and *(b)* with a contribution from the charitable sector. [135758]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally.

Smoking

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the likely impact of the ban on smoking in public places on cancer rates. [135199]

Caroline Flint: No estimate has been made specifically on the likely impact of smokefree legislation on cancer rates.

The Government's independent Scientific Committee on Tobacco and Health has concluded on the basis of an extensive review of medical and scientific evidence that there is an overall 24 per cent. increased risk of lung cancer in non-smokers exposed to secondhand smoke. In March 2005, the *British Medical Journal* published a research paper by Professor K. Jamrozik suggesting that across the United Kingdom, exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace is to be responsible for the deaths of more than two employed people per working day, 617 deaths a year. Of this number, the research attributed 160 deaths from exposure to secondhand smoke to lung cancer (a copy of this article is available in the Library).

While the primary aim of smokefree legislation is to protect employees and members of the public from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke in enclosed workplaces and public places, the Department also anticipates that many smokers will be motivated by the implementation of the new law to quit smoking. The Department estimates that the new smokefree law might reduce smoking prevalence among the general population in England by around 1.7 percentage points, or an estimated 600,000 people.

While smoking is closely related to lung cancer with 87 per cent. of all deaths from lung cancer being attributable to smoking, smoking is also a cause of other types of cancer including cancers of the oesophagus, bladder, kidney, stomach and pancreas. The expected reduction in smoking prevalence from the implementation of smokefree legislation will help to reduce rates of smoking-related cancer.

Speech Therapy: Manpower

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress her Department has made in reaching its target of 58 per cent. more speech and language therapists in posts by 2010. [131605]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No target has been set for speech and language therapy posts.

The headcount number of speech and language therapists has increased by 1,888 (39 per cent.) since 1997.

Spinal Injuries

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with serious spinal injuries were treated in *(a)* district general hospitals and *(b)* specialist spinal injury units in each of the last 10 years. [136763]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of people treated with a serious spinal injury, broken down by place of treatment, is not collected centrally.

Spinal Injuries: Life Expectancy

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the life expectancy of the victims of serious spinal injuries; and what provision her Department has made for treatment of such injuries in the next 10 years. [136838]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have made no assessment of the life expectancy for victims of serious spinal injuries.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure the provision of health and social care for those living with such injuries.

Surgery

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what population she expects the specialist surgical centres referred to on page four of her Department's report Saws and Scalpels to Lasers and Robots, published 17th April 2007, to serve. [135820]

Andy Burnham: In his report, Professor Darzi set out his vision for surgery in the future. The population to be served by a specialist centre will vary by speciality and needs to take account of local circumstances.

Surgery: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled at *(a)* the Hemel Hempstead Acute NHS Trust Hospital and *(b)* the Watford Acute Trust Hospital (i) for medical reasons and (ii) because of a lack of beds in each month in each year since 2000. [135329]

Andy Burnham: Information on the number of cancelled operations for medical reasons is not held centrally. Information is collected by acute trust, the following table shows the number of last minute cancelled operations for non clinical reasons.

West Hertfordshire Hospitals National Health Service Trust, quarter 1 2001-02 to quarter 3 2006-07[1]

	Quarter	*Number of last minute cancelled operations for non clinical reasons*
2001-02	Q1	124
2001-02	Q2	117
2001-02	Q3	148
2001-02	Q4	173
2002-03	Q1	69
2002-03	Q2	73
2002-03	Q3	40
2002-03	Q4	62
2003-04	Q1	164
2003-04	Q2	142
2003-04	Q3	208
2003-04	Q4	301
2004-05	Q1	164
2004-05	Q2	153
2004-05	Q3	189
2004-05	Q4	160
2005-06	Q1	99
2005-06	Q2	100
2005-06	Q3	243
2005-06	Q4	179
2006-07	Q1	175
2006-07	Q2	208
2006-07	Q3	268

[1] Latest data available.

Notes:

1. A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation.
2. Data were collected at health authority-level only prior to 2001-02.
3. Trust-level data were collected from 2001-02 onwards.

Source:

Department of Health dataset QMCO

Surgery: St. George's Hospital Tooting

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she is taking in relation to the return of statistics on cancelled operations at St. George's hospital, Tooting in September and October 2001; and if she will make a statement; [135454]

(2) what steps have been taken in response to the inquiry by David Sissing into the actions of Ian Perkin while employed by St. George's hospital, Tooting; and if she will make a statement. [135455]

Andy Burnham: This is a local matter. However, NHS London advises that the former South West London strategic health authority and St. George's Healthcare national health service trust reviewed all the recommendations relating to their respective organisations, and has been assured that all necessary actions have been carried out.

West Hertfordshire Acute Hospital Trust: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other medical staff, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* other professional staff, *(e)* administrative and clerical staff and *(f)* auxiliary staff were employed by West Hertfordshire Acute Hospital Trust in all areas excluding those transferred to Dacorum Primary Care Trust in each year since 2000. [135347]

Andy Burnham: The table shows the number of national health service staff in West Hertfordshire Hospitals National Health Service Trust by main staff group as at 30 September 2006, for each year since 2000. It is not possible to exclude staff transferring from Dacorum Primary Care Trust.

Full-time equivalent

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*[1]
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3,075	3,546	3,563	3,900	4,055	3,704	3,601
All medical and dental staff	415	431	434	426	497	480	504
All dental staff	8	3	4	3	4	7	7
All medical staff	407	428	430	423	493	473	496
Consultant	143	161	159	156	161	153	152
Other medical staff	264	267	271	267	332	320	344
All non-medical staff	2,660	3,115	3°129	3,474	3,558	3,224	3,098
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,553	1,734	1,671	1,768	1,804	1,592	1,619
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,091	1,259	1,176	1,301	1,321	1,208	1,237
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	462	475	495	467	483	384	382
Qualified allied health professions	172	180	199	190	199	150	148
Qualified healthcare scientists	n/a	n/a	n/a	170	176	142	145
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	290	295	296	106	108	92	89
Support to clinical staff	740	900	919	1,132	1,171	1,050	960
Support to doctors and nursing staff	630	781	786	904	888	817	731
Support to ST and T staff	110	119	133	227	283	233	230
NHS infrastructure support	366	481	539	574	583	583	518
Central functions	240	289	299	380	391	397	350
Hotel, property and estates	53	106	95	116	112	101	92
Managers and senior managers	74	85	144	78	81	85	76

n/a = not available

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Source:
The Information Centre

Wheelchairs: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the extent to which NHS eligibility criteria for the provision of wheelchairs and mobility equipment supports the delivery of the five key outcomes envisaged by Every Child Matters; [134659]

(2) what guidance is being produced to support the role of primary care trusts and local education authorities to jointly commission and jointly resource wheelchair services for children and young people in line with Standard 8 of the National Service Framework for Children; [134660]

(3) what steps she is taking to ensure that disabled children and young people are provided with a wheelchair which meets their clinical, social and educational needs; [134780]

(4) what the average waiting times were for children and young people under the age of 18 years following assessment to receive *(a)* a lightweight manual and *(b)* a powered indoor and outdoor wheelchair in each of the last three years; [135126]

(5) what percentage of children under the age of 18 years who met local eligibility criteria received a powered indoor and outdoor wheelchair within *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* one year of an assessment in the last three years for which figures are available. [135127]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for Education and Skills leads the cross-government programme Every Child Matters; Change for Children but it is not responsible for all aspects of policy on children. The Department of Health is responsible for the health of disabled children and for wheelchair services for adults and children. It therefore leads the Be Healthy strand of the Every Child Matters programme.

The Department has made it clear that eligibility for services and support is for councils to determine in a locally consistent manner. We believe that local-decision making by councils is an important means by which local people have the opportunity to influence decisions about resources, charging and priorities.

The Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) report "Out and About", which was published on 20 October 2006, highlights the importance of services being committed to standard 8 of the Children's National Service Framework (NSF). The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) will be referring to the best practice checklist, contained in the report, as part of their inspection process and will be specifically including wheelchair services.

The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services (TCEWS) programme is looking at how best to address the issues the services face through development of a new delivery model in collaboration with stakeholders. The Department for Education and Skills is working closely with us on this ongoing programme of work. We anticipate that the new model will be capable of implementation by April 2008.

The TCEWS programme was able to develop two potential models for wheelchair services in collaboration with users and their carers, seven wheelchair services, the wheelchair services managers and to refine the potential models with practitioners and suppliers. Further data are required before recommendations can be made for the way forward. A further data gathering exercise has been approved and an update will be provided in autumn 2007.

As part of our commitment set out in the Children's NSF, we presented, on 16 April 2006, a new self-assessment tool for commissioners of children's and young people's health services. The tool will play an important role in ensuring that all commissioners are equipped and able to deliver improved quality and outcomes for services for children and young people.

We are currently consulting on the Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing which sets out how local commissioners can successfully commission services that improve health and well-being and help people remain independent. It also consults on a new duty for local authorities and primary care trusts to work together on a joint strategic needs assessment. This will outline current and predicted needs of the local population so providers can best promote the health and wellbeing of their local populations, particularly those groups that currently get a poor response from services.

Every Child Matters aims to improve outcomes for disabled children through better integration of services, at strategic and operational levels, including the pooling of budgets. The introduction of children's trust arrangements should see services coming together to provide more joined-up and coherent services and make a major contribution to the NSF standard eight vision for equipment provision.

The Department does not collect centrally the average waiting times for children and young people under the age of 18 following assessment to receive a lightweight manual and a powered indoor and outdoor wheelchair in each of the last three years.

The Department does not collect centrally the data for the percentage of children under the age of 18 years who met local eligibility criteria received a powered indoor and outdoor wheelchair within three months, six months and one year of an assessment in the last three years.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 16 May 2007

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: Educational Visits

Ben Chapman: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what representations he has received on provision of travel and accommodation expenses for schools and other educational institutions visiting Parliament; [137449]

(2) what proportion of schools and other educational institutions which visited Parliament were from London and the South East in the last year for which figures are available; [137450]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to meet some or all of the travel and accommodation expenses incurred by schools and other educational institutions in visiting Parliament. [137451]

Nick Harvey: An analysis of educational visits arranged through the Parliamentary Education Service in 2005-06 showed that 64 per cent. of schools were from London and the south east regions. New recording systems are currently being investigated that will allow the Education Service to provide regional breakdowns of visitors from the start of the next academic year in September 2007.

Several Members have made representations that funding should be found to provide subsidies to encourage schools to visit Westminster as part of the Administration Committee's recent inquiry into visitor facilities at Parliament. As part of its evidence to the inquiry, the Education Service commissioned research with teachers to find out what obstacles might prevent schools from visiting Parliament. 46 per cent. of those teachers who indicated that they were unlikely to visit gave as their reason that the journey would be too expensive. The Committee recommended in its report, Improving Facilities for Educational Visitors to Parliament[1], that the House of Commons Commission, working closely with the appropriate bodies in the House of Lords, should consider the case for subsidising school visits to Westminster from more remote constituencies. The Group on Information for the Public will be presenting proposals for consideration by the Commission later in the year.

[1] HC 434 2006-07.

Parliament (Joint Departments) Bill

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will place in the Library the response to the consultations held with trade unions in respect of the proposals detailed in the Parliament (Joint Departments) Bill to set up joint departments of the Houses of Parliament and the subsequent transfer of staff; and if he will make a statement. [137123]

Nick Harvey: The trade unions gave evidence to the Cummins review of 2003-04 which led to the proposal for a Joint Parliamentary ICT Department and have been involved in both formal and informal consultation at each subsequent stage. Consultation has taken place through the House of Commons Whitley Committee structure and also through an informal working group in which officials of both Houses and trade union representatives have taken part. Normally such exchanges would be treated as part of discussions carried out in confidence between the management and the unions. Since, however, these consultations relate to the subject of a Bill currently before the House, it was been agreed with the trade union side that copies of the formal letters exchanged to date should be placed in the House of Commons Library.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections: Fifth Avenue Partners

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will make a statement on progress by the Electoral Commission with its investigation into donations by Fifth Avenue Partners. [137192]

Peter Viggers: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer to him of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 791W. The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not intend to make any decision in relation to donations made to the Liberal Democrats by Fifth Avenue Partners Ltd. until it has received confirmation from both the police and the Crown Prosecution Service that legal proceedings would not be prejudiced by it doing so.

Elections: Fraud

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 982W, on elections: fraud, on what date the Electoral Commission started working with the Crown Prosecution Service to collate data. [137059]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it began discussions with the Crown Prosecution Service on electoral malpractice in 2002, in the context of the Commission's review of the absent voting system in Great Britain. The Commission has continued to discuss the collation of data relating to allegations of electoral malpractice since then.

Elections: Legislation

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will place in the Library a copy of the Electoral Commission's analysis of the Crown Prosecution Service files on alleged offences under electoral legislation, redacting any sensitive information where appropriate. [137194]

Peter Viggers: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer to him on this subject of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1481W. The Electoral Commission informs me that the material was placed in the Library of the House on 28 March.

Elections: Local Government

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will place in the Library a copy of the research and findings commissioned by the Electoral Commission from the British Market Research Bureau on perceptions of local elections. [137193]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has placed in the Library a copy of the 2006 local elections and electoral pilot schemes report produced by the British Market Research Bureau. This material is also available on the Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/files/dms/BMRB FINALREPRTJUNE2006_23028-17200_E_N_S_W_.pdf.

Electoral Register: Second Homes

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Commission has given local authority returning officers on the definition of a second residence for the purposes of being able to vote in elections at an address other than a primary home. [137191]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission advises me that it is for the Electoral Registration Officer to decide, in the light of relevant circumstances, whether an applicant is eligible for inclusion on the electoral register through residence at an address in the electoral area concerned. The Commission informs me that its guidance to Electoral Registration Officers reflects the relevant statutory provisions, but does not include any specific advice on the definition of an eligible second residence for the purpose of electoral registration.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Information Packs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average length of time she expects it to take to prepare a home information pack. [136387]

Yvette Cooper: The length of time it takes to complete a home information pack will vary from area to area as there are wide variations in the time it takes to get searches done in different local authorities. However, the search itself does have to be gathered before marketing can begin.

Housing: Yorkshire and Humberside

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to reduce the gap between the cost of housing and the level of incomes in North Yorkshire. [136719]

Meg Munn: Government recognise the problem of housing affordability in North Yorkshire and other communities across the country. Central to addressing this is to ensure supply of housing responds far better to need than it has in the past. That is why the Government have set a challenging ambition to increase the supply of additional homes in England to at least 200,000 per annum by 2016.

The draft Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber foresees raising current planned levels of building in North Yorkshire from 2,500 to 3,000 homes per annum, with a target of at least 40 per cent. affordable housing. An examination in public, led by an independent panel has just concluded on this draft. The panel has presented the draft to the Secretary of State, who will publish any 'Proposed Changes' for consultation in the summer.

Supporting People Programme

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1159W, on the Supporting People programme, when she expects to publish the report on housing-related support through the Supporting People programme. [136528]

Mr. Woolas: Work to finalise this report is ongoing, and the report will be published when this has been completed, in the near future.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Noise

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish the results of the attitudes to noise from aircraft sources in England study commissioned by his Department in November 2001 into attitudes to noise from civil aircraft sources in England. [136874]

Gillian Merron: Provisional findings have been submitted to the Department and are now being subjected to peer review by independent experts. This review is not yet complete, but I anticipate that the results of this study will be available in the summer.

Driving Tests

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the requirement to reverse around a corner in the Driving Standards Authority driving test. [137016]

Dr. Ladyman: The reversing manoeuvre has been a requirement of the driving test since its inception in 1935. The only representations on this topic recorded are questions about the fault analysis and how candidates have failed on test.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of additional passengers using Heathrow airport resulting from the increase from 480,000 movements per year to 720,000 per year. [137166]

Gillian Merron: The Future of Air Transport Progress Report December 2006 suggested that a third runway at Heathrow airport could support up to 720,000 movements a year, or 128 million passengers per year. This would imply an additional 61 million passengers per year compared to 2006 (471,000 movements, 67 million passengers).

Public Transport: Concessions

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date the national concessionary fares scheme will commence. [135983]

Gillian Merron: In the 2006 Budget the Chancellor announced that from April 2008 people aged 60 and over, and disabled people, would be able to travel free on all off-peak local bus services anywhere in England. The Concessionary Bus Travel Bill which provides for the national concession is now before Parliament.

Railways: EC Countries

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department collects on railway *(a)* passenger and *(b)* freight journeys in other EU countries for benchmarking UK performance; and what EU-wide targets are relevant to railway usage. [136600]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not separately collect information from other EU countries but makes use of a wide range of external sources, including the International Railway Union (UIC).

In addition the UK is taking a leading role in the European Commission's Rail Market Monitoring working group, which is collating statistics relating to the EU's national railways.

Railways: Litter

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of Network Rail on litter on the track and railway land; and if he will make a statement. [136702]

Mr. Tom Harris: None. Responsibility for the clearance of litter from the operational infrastructure is an operational matter for Network Rail. Network Rail has its own operational arrangements and policies relating to clearance, consistent with current legislation.

The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address, should he require further information on this subject.

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Overcrowding

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which train services in the last 12 months were the most heavily loaded on *(a)* the east coast main line, *(b)* the west coast main line and *(c)* the trans-Pennine line according to the most recent passenger census. [131751]

Mr. Tom Harris: I understand from train operators concerned that, based on the most recent passenger counts undertaken by the train operators, the most heavily loaded services on each route requested are as follows:

East coast main line—the 7.14 am Royston to Kings Cross service, operated by First Capital Connect.

West coast main line—the 7.34 am Bletchley to Euston service, operated by Silverlink.

Trans-Pennine routes—the 6.49 am Manchester Victoria to Leeds via Rochdale service, operated by Northern Rail.

Railways: Passengers

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what change there has been in the number of rail passenger journeys since 1997. [136596]

Mr. Tom Harris: The number of rail passenger journeys has grown by 35 per cent. since 1996-97. In 2003-04 for the first time since 1961, over one billion rail journeys were made, and the number of rail journeys increased further in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Statistics on rail usage are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the National Rail Trends quarterly publication, which is available in the House Library or from their website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

Railways: Standards

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his targets for railway punctuality and reliability have been met. [136597]

Mr. Tom Harris: The March 2006 target of 85 per cent. punctuality and reliability was met with performance reaching 86 per cent. by that date. I am now building on this success and a new target for March 2008 of 89.4 per cent. punctuality and reliability has been set. Punctuality on the passenger railway over the past year has averaged 88 per cent.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Buildings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many buildings are owned by his Department; and what the value is of each. [135042]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and NDPBs, owns 29 buildings. The following table lists the buildings and their values.

Building	Value as at 1 April 2007 (£)
NIO Residential Property	112,413
NIO Residential Property	185,150
NIO Residential Property	158,700
NIO Residential Property	244,663
NIO Residential Property	185,150
NIO Residential Property	198,375
NIO Residential Property	198,375
NIO Residential Property	152,088
NIO Residential Property	211,600
NIO Residential Property	257,888
NIO Residential Property	231,438
NIO Residential Property	218,213
NIO Residential Property	92,575
NIO Residential Property	99,188
NIO Residential Property	112,413
NIO Residential Property	119,025
NIO Residential Property	132,250
NIO Residential Property	85,963
NIO Residential Property	99,121
NIO Residential Property	85,896
NIO Residential Property	244,663
NIO Residential Property	119,025
NIO Residential Property	191,762
NIO Residential Property	211,600
NIO Residential Property	198,375
NIO Residential Property	165,313
Mounteden Storage Facility	156,060
Maryfield Offices	3,264,509
Hillsborough Castle	81,767,925

Dogs: Theft

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dogs were reported stolen in each police district command unit area in Northern Ireland in *(a)* each of the past 12 months and *(b)* each of the previous three years, broken down by breed; how many of the dogs were recovered; how many people have been prosecuted for this crime over the same period; and what sentence was imposed in each case where no legal proceedings are outstanding. [136805]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI have advised that this information is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

PRIME MINISTER

Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud

Dr. Cable: To ask the Prime Minister when *(a)* he has and *(b)* his officials have met (i) Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud since 1 January 2006; and if he will make a statement. [136899]

The Prime Minister: It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Measures: EC Action

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to legislate to remove restrictions on the use of imperial measures; and whether he will issue revised guidance on prosecution to trading standards officers following the implementation of the revised policy outlined in the EU Trade and Industry Commissioner's recent statement on weights and measures. [137414]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have no such plans. Supplementary indications in non-metric units are currently permitted under section 8 of the Weights and Measures Act 1985. The European Commission has outlined its intention to propose the continued authorisation of such indications for an indefinite period beyond 2009.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether following the implementation of the revised policy outlined in the EU Trade and Industry Commissioner's recent statement on weights and measures it will become legal to sell *(a)* loose bananas by the pound, *(b)* timber in feet and inches, *(c)* fabric in yards, *(d)* beer in pints and *(e)* petrol in gallons in the UK. [137415]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Commission has indicated it will propose an extension of the authorisation to use supplementary indications without further time limit beyond 2009. This will allow the present position of dual labelling in both metric and non-metric units to continue indefinitely. No changes are proposed to the primary units of measurement currently authorised for each of the purposes listed above.

Post Offices

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 894W, on post offices, on what date his Department will *(a)* complete its analysis of responses to the Post Office network consultation and *(b)* publish its response to the consultation. [137426]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have given consideration to the responses to the Post Office network consultation and expect to publish their response shortly.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to implement the policy in the Heritage Protection for the 21st Century White Paper to clarify and strengthen protections for World Heritage Sites; and if she will make a statement. [137488]

Mr. Lammy: DCMS is working with the Department for Communities and Local Government to prepare a joint planning circular which will provide updated policy guidance on the level of protection and management required for World Heritage Sites as announced in the White Paper Heritage Protection for the 21st Century.

We also intend to consult on a draft amendment to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to include World Heritage Sites as Article 1(5) land, thereby putting World Heritage Sites on the same footing as other protected areas such as conservation areas, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where permitted development rights are more restricted.

We plan to issue these proposals for consultation in Summer 2007.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to comply with the recommendations of UNESCO's Mission to London on the protection of World Heritage sites. [137489]

Mr. Lammy: My Department has worked closely with key stakeholders with an interest in both Westminster and the Tower of London World Heritage Sites to respond to the findings of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to London. A full report will be made to the World Heritage Committee ahead of their meeting on 23 June.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department has held with the Greater London Authority on its policy on *(a)* the development of tall buildings in London and *(b)* the impact of such buildings on areas in London with World Heritage Site status. [137490]

Mr. Lammy: My Department has had continuing discussions with all the stakeholders on the impact of development on the Westminster and Tower of London World Heritage Sites, including the Greater London Authority.

Mayoral policy on tall buildings is set out in the London Plan which was published in February 2004. There are no proposals to change this policy in the Further Alterations to the London Plan which are currently under consideration. The Mayor is aiming to publish the London View Management Framework shortly. This document will set out his detailed approach to consideration of development that may impact on a number of London's key views including World Heritage sites.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff funded by the public purse in her Department are classified as people without posts. [137669]

Mr. Lammy: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, there are no staff funded by the public purse who are classified as people without posts.

Licensing Laws

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to publish the results of the review of the guidance related to the Licensing Act 2003. [136900]

Mr. Woodward: The public consultation on draft revised Guidance closed on 11 April this year. We intend to issue the final revised Guidance in June.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans the Government have to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [137506]

Mr. Lammy: Currently, there are no plans to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Television: Telephone Services

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints she has received regarding television quizzes on Channel 5. [136599]

Mr. Woodward: The Department has received no complaints regarding television quizzes specifically on Channel 5. We have received 25 representations about premium rate telephone competitions covering all television channels. Formal complaints are a matter for the independent regulators, Ofcom and ICSTIS.

TREASURY

Departments: Ministerial Responsibilities

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much time he expects to spend exercising his ministerial functions between 10 May and 27 June; [137563]

(2) if he will list his public engagements for the next seven weeks. [137564]

John Healey: As ever, the Chancellor will continue to exercise his duties in full.

Exports: Defence

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers are available to enforce *(a)* UN and *(b)* EU sanctions on export of goods with military applications to Sudan; what reports he has received of the export of such goods by (i) Dallex Trade and (ii) Land Rover to Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [136815]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is the enforcement authority for export licensing controls on military goods. An exporter attempting to export military goods from the UK to any destination without a valid export licence is committing an offence under Section 68 of the Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA) 1979. The provisions of CEMA provide HMRC officers with wide ranging enforcement powers

to investigate offences and to seize unlicensed goods. Should an investigation reveal sufficient evidence of an offence then the case will be referred to the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO). The RCPO will then consider whether to commence criminal proceedings.

EU and UN arms embargoes prohibit the export of military goods to Sudan. Military goods are defined as all goods listed in Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Export of Goods, Transfer of Technology and Provision of Technical Assistance (Control) Order 2003. Non-military goods which may have a military application are not subject to export licensing controls and therefore HMRC enforcement powers do not apply.

Section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 provides that HMRC may not disclose information held in connection with a function of HMRC unless there is lawful authority. HMRC is therefore unable to disclose information in relation to specific campaigns.

General Registry Office for England and Wales: IT

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the operation of the IT system at the General Registry Office for England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [137126]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 May 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what assessment has been made of the operation of the IT system at the General Registry Office for England and Wales. (137126)

A number of IT systems are operating at the General Register Office (GRO), the most recent of which was introduced in March 2007 to enable the registration of births, deaths and stillbirths in local registration offices. Despite extensive testing and piloting, the new system encountered difficulties when implemented country-wide, although in some areas it has worked well. Local authorities have therefore been given the option of using the new system or reverting to the previous system, which remains available.

The public will be able to register events as normal in all areas. The new system is currently in use in just over half of the registration districts in England and Wales. It will be reintroduced in other areas as soon as possible but subject to further stringent testing to ensure it will work as intended.

Market in Financial Instruments Directive

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many EU member states have transposed the Market in Financial Instruments Directive into national legislation; and if he will make a statement. [136412]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* As I said in my answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 405-6W, the Commission currently reports that the UK, Ireland and Rumania have notified their transposition of both MiFID Directives. Lithuania has reported it has transposed the Level 1 MiFID Directive.

This clearly leaves the majority of member states still to complete transposition. Timely implementation of MiFID is essential if firms are to have opportunity to prepare for launch in November and I have written to Commissioner McCreevy on this very subject urging him to maintain the pressure on member states.

The Commission has asked all member states to confirm when they will complete transposition of the two MiFID directives and this information is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/internalmarket/securities/isd/mifid_implementation_en.htm.

By the end of the summer, the majority of countries plan to have completed transposition.

Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* Smith Institute and *(b)* SI Events Ltd events have been booked for No. 11 Downing street in (i) July and (ii) August 2007. [136987]

John Healey: The Smith Institute asked in 1997 to use the facility for seminars on a once a month basis and sometimes, when they are conducting a series of seminars, on a more regular basis. Ministers agreed to that request.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what matters he discussed with President Bush on his recent visit to Washington DC. [133368]

John Healey: The Chancellor of the Exchequer met President Bush on 13 April 2007. I refer the hon. Member to the Chancellor's interviews and statement given at the end of the IMFC meeting in Washington on 14 April.

VAT: New Businesses

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were tasked with processing new business VAT number applications in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales and Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months, broken down by grade. [136795]

John Healey: At 30 April 2007 the National Registration Service had in the region of 316 staff employed in the processing of VAT registration applications.

Figures are not available on a monthly basis as the deployment of staff across the service and between work streams changes frequently to deal with changes in work priorities and volumes. HMRC do not record separate figures for England, Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of time taken was to process new business VAT number applications in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales and Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months. [136796]

John Healey: The average time taken to process an application for VAT registration for the following months was:

Month	*Average time taken (in days)*
April 2006	32
May 2006	34
June 2006	33
July 2006	31
August 2006	29
September 2006	28
October 2006	24
November 2006	23
December 2006	24
January 2007	30
February 2007	29
March 2007	29

HM Revenue and Customs do not record separate figures for England, Scotland Wales and N. Ireland.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new businesses in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales and Northern Ireland applied for VAT numbers in each of the last 12 months. [136797]

John Healey: The following number of businesses applied for VAT registration in the UK:

Month	*Number of new businesses*
April 2006	23,014
May 2006	26,474
June 2006	25,658
July 2006	22,130
August 2006	24,257
September 2006	20,830
October 2006	23,956
November 2006	24,214
December 2006	16,629
January 2007	24,430
February 2007	26,477
March 2007	27,107

HM Revenue and Customs do not record separate figures for England, Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers in Lancashire are owed *(a)* all and *(b)* part of single farm payments. [136959]

Barry Gardiner: Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the Single Payment scheme is not yet available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the changes to eligibility for common land in the Single Farm Payment scheme. [137034]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 15 May 2007]*: There have not been any changes in the eligibility rules relating to common land under the Single Payment scheme. However, a number of industry representatives have raised issues in relation to how those rules are applied in practice and these will be considered further with those concerned.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134045]

Barry Gardiner: From information held centrally, the figures are as follows:

	Copier		*Publications*	
	Tonnes	*Percentage*	*Tonnes*	*Percentage*
2004-05	382.1	98	1,049.2	90
2005-06	235.8	100	874.4	96
2006-07	318.7	100	547.9	97

DEFRA's sustainable procurement policy is to adhere to the highest standards of recycled paper. DEFRA currently buys paper that contains 75 per cent. recycled fibre for coated paper used in publications and for office paper (copier) and publications using uncoated paper there is a target 100 per cent. recycled fibre.

The only exceptions to these standards are where recycled paper is not available for a specific process e.g. security paper. Meeting the targets owes much to the fact that a considerable proportion of DEFRA's printed publications are commissioned from a single central business unit using a centrally negotiated contract for recycled paper.

Gangmasters

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the number of gangmasters in *(a)* Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Lincolnshire; [136238]

(2) what steps are being taken to ensure that migrant workers are not exploited by unregistered gangmasters; [136239]

(3) what steps are being taken to ensure that gangmasters are complying with the law on the minimum wage. [136240]

Barry Gardiner: As of 4 May 2007, there were 57 gangmasters in Cambridgeshire, 37 in Norfolk, and 146 in Lincolnshire. This includes registered gangmasters and those in the process of applying for licences.

The Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 protects workers from exploitation and reduces illegal activity. The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) was set up to curb the exploitation of workers in the agriculture, horticulture, shellfish gathering and associated processing and packaging industries. It is now illegal to supply workers to the agriculture, food processing and packaging, and shellfish gathering sectors without a GLA licence.

The GLA enforces the criminal offences in the Act on behalf of DEFRA by:

(i) Investigating criminal offences under the Act and identifying Labour Providers and Labour Users operating illegally

(ii) Engaging other government departments in joint investigative activity of mutual benefit to tackle illegal activity by Labour Providers

(iii) Providing a visible presence to deter, disrupt, or displace illegal activity.

Any person employed in the UK is entitled to be paid at least the appropriate minimum wage rate set out in minimum wage legislation. This includes all foreign nationals legally entitled to work in the United Kingdom. If a worker considers they might have been underpaid, they should contact the relevant minimum wage enforcement authority who will arrange for the matter to be investigated.

In addition, compliance with minimum wage legislation represents one of the licence conditions that a gangmaster must meet in order to obtain a gangmaster's licence. Gangmasters who fail to meet this requirement will have their licences revoked by the GLA.

ICT: Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total expenditure was from inception to termination on *(a)* the Catalyst Project and *(b)* the Phoenix IT Project; and what the projected cost was on the launch of each project. [133535]

Barry Gardiner: The total expenditure from inception to termination on *(a)* the Catalyst Project and *(b)* the Phoenix IT Project, was as follows.

(a) £12.6 million. This included costs of a large pilot and of preparing for the wider programme, which was not rolled out. The initial funding bid for an Electronic Document and Records Management project (SR2002) was £14.7 million.

At the point at which the pilot was launched the estimate for the pilot and initial rollout was £13.6 million.

Following a pilot of the Catalyst project, aimed at developing a central repository of electronic information for the whole of DEFRA, it was decided not to proceed to full roll out because the business benefits no longer demonstrated good value for money and Catalyst alone could not sufficiently meet DEFRA's long term information and knowledge management requirements.

The Catalyst system is still maintaining the documents and records deposited by pilot users and the lessons from the project have been built into a new approach to information and records management now being rolled out across DEFRA.

(b) £4.0 million. The estimated costs at commencement of the project was £2.6 million.

The Phoenix project suffered a series of delays and cost increases. It reached a point where continued investment could not be justified relative to other priorities and so had to be cancelled.

However, the project resulted in completed work on a number of key functional documents, particularly the System Requirements Specification, Logical Data Model, and Functional Use Cases, which were agreed by the stakeholders and base-lined.

These together with the other completed documents in the Project library provide all of the information necessary to support the definition of a future technical solution within Animal Health's Business Reform Programme.

Poppies: Licences

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much revenue was generated from issuing the licences for the growing of poppies in each of the last three years; and how many hectares of land were used for the purpose in each year. [136643]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The Home Office issue permission letters, free of charge, to growers of poppies (Papaver Somniferum) who meet specified criteria.

The cultivation area of poppies was approximately 1,978 hectares in 2004, 1,650 hectares in 2005 and 774 hectares in 2006.

Rural Development Programme: Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he took of the size of the budget for the draft Rural Development Programme for England 2007 to 2013 in deciding on the inclusion of measures relating to animal health and welfare in the draft Programme. [136422]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Development Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005), offers a broad menu of measures which member states can choose from. With finite resources, we have to target funding on those measures which best meet our policy priorities while delivering value for money. In England, we have decided to focus the programme on environmental outcomes, in particular by maintaining our commitment to environmental stewardship.

A number of the measures we are including in the programme will be capable of supporting animal health and welfare objectives, such as those targeting training and knowledge transfer.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the England Implementation Group was asked to comment on the draft Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 prior to its publication on 13 April. [136423]

Barry Gardiner: The draft Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 has been published for public consultation, together with an environmental report on the programme's likely overall impact, as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process. The England Implementation Group was not consulted prior to the launch of this consultation on 13 April. It will remain open until 5 July and we look forward to any response the group makes.

Sheep: Imports

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many heavy lambs were imported into the UK in each month of the last two years. [136266]

Barry Gardiner: The following table gives the number of live lambs recorded as imported into the UK from March 2005 to February 2007 (the most recent two years available). In this period no trade was recorded from March 2005 to October 2006. Note, it is not possible to identify different weight groups of lambs.

Please note these figures are obtained using VAT records and will exclude some EU trade for businesses which are below the VAT threshold. As a result, actual trade levels may be higher than those given.

Lambs (up to a year old)

	Number of head
2006	
November	7,586
December	12,947
2007	
January	5,587
February	2,730

Note
2006 and 2007 data are subject to amendments
Source:
HM Revenue and Customs Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis, DEFRA

Wild Boar

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects *(a)* to finalise and *(b)* to publish his Department's policy on wild boar management. [137138]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 15 May 2007]*: DEFRA has already consulted on this issue. Based on all the available evidence regarding the impacts of feral wild boar, work is currently underway on a detailed risk assessment to help inform the final policy.

It is intended that a policy decision will be made towards the end of 2007 which will be published as soon as practicable.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Computers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136101]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system. The Executive has adopted an environmental policy aimed at improving its environmental performance and reducing the environmental impacts of its own activities and operations.

As part of this initiative, staff are instructed to shut down their PC when not in use or when they intend to be away from their desk for more than 30 minutes. They are also asked to switch off the monitor each time their PC is powered down; this is because it still uses energy even with the base unit switched off.

In addition, IT security procedures for the IT infrastructure, including all corporate servers and workstations, ensure that they are protected by approved screensaver software which locks the PC from user access after 10 minutes of inactivity and requires secure log-on identification by the user before reactivating.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133263]

David Cairns: Hospitality expenditure in the financial year 2006-07 for the Scotland Office and the Offices of the Advocate-General for Scotland amounted to £23,410.69.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people took sick leave for stress in his Office in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135466]

David Cairns: No staff took sick leave for stress in the last 12 months.

Oil: Prices

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the impact of fluctuations in oil prices on the Scottish economy. [135986]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend holds regular meetings with the First Minister, including discussions on the oil industry. While oil is a commodity whose price is determined at global level and is subject to regular fluctuations, we are actively engaged on issues that the Government can influence. These include employment opportunities within the sector and the competitive fiscal regime which the UK oil and gas industry benefits from.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Agriculture

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve food production rates in sub-Saharan Africa; and what steps have been taken to improve the *(a)* development of irrigation systems and *(b)* replenishment of soil through fertilizers. [137097]

Hilary Benn: DFID is supporting an increase in food production and productivity in Africa in two main ways.

Firstly, we are providing financial support to Africa's own efforts to increase agricultural productivity through our support to the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development initiative, the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan (CAADP), and through direct support to governments and partners to help poor farmers. Programmes include improving access to agricultural inputs, and transferring new technologies and skills to farmers to help them produce more. We will double to £80 million per year our expenditure on agricultural, fisheries and forestry research by 2010. About two thirds of this will benefit Africa directly.

Secondly, we are helping keep small-scale farmers productive after shocks like drought. With support from DFID, African governments are able to provide small, timely transfers of adequate amounts of cash, food or agricultural inputs. For example, in Ethiopia we have provided over £70 million to the Productive Safety Net Programme—giving 7.2 million people cash and food transfers.

The Commission for Africa recommended that donors should support a doubling of irrigated area by 2015. Irrigation is also an important element of the first pillar of CAADP. DFID is a strong supporter of CAADP and has provided £5 million to speed up its implementation by African governments. DFID is also one of the main supporters of the Nile Basin Initiative, which is an African-led regional process for sustainable management of the Nile, including for irrigation.

DFID recognizes the need to increase fertilizer use in many African countries so as to replenish the soils and improve food production in combination with complementary measures, such as improved seed varieties, irrigation and soil conservation. Improving fertilizer access is one component of CAADP. DFID co-funded an Africa Fertilizer Summit in July 2006. Over the past five years, DFID has committed around £50 million to finance fertilizer-related programmes in Africa, which were executed through non-governmental organisations, government ministries and the UN. In Malawi, for example, DFID has provided support to help small-scale farmers acquire fertilizer. A recent evaluation has shown that the fertilizer and seed subsidy programmes in Malawi have led to additional maize production of 300,000 to 400,000 tonnes and 600,000 to 700,000 tonnes in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively, after taking into account better than average rainfalls. The value of the additional maize production in 2006-07 amounts to about $200 million based on import parity prices, about 9 per cent. of 2006 GDP.

Africa: Infrastructure

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help improve the *(a)* energy and *(b)* telecommunications infrastructure of impoverished countries in Africa, with particular reference to (i) power cables and (ii) fibre-optic cables for internet usage. [137107]

Hilary Benn: The Commission for Africa highlighted poor infrastructure as a critical barrier to accelerating growth and reducing poverty. In response to this, DFID took a lead in establishing the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa in 2005. This brings together donors and African institutions to address critical constraints and increase investment in Africa's infrastructure. In 2006 Consortium members committed $7.7 billion to African infrastructure. The power sector is a particular priority—both to increase generation capacity and power transmission cable systems for greater regional connectivity. DFID provides no direct funding of power cables, for which finance is available from development banks such as the World Bank and African development banks. DFID has, however, provided $150,000 for preparation of the East African Submarine Cable System project. This fibre optic cable will link eastern and southern Africa to the international fibre optic system and will support high speed and high quality internet connections.

Developing Countries: Water

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce pathogens in the water supply of impoverished countries. [137106]

Hilary Benn: DFID provides funds for water resource management, water supply and sanitation programmes either directly to developing country governments or through NGOs or UN agencies such as UNICEF. DFID spent £242 million in this area in 2005-06. We ensure that the water provided by us (multilaterally and bilaterally) meets approved national water quality guidelines or those of the World Health Organisation (WHO). Improving sanitation is a particularly effective way of reducing the number of pathogens in water sources and is usually included as a component of water supply programmes. More specifically, DFID has supported the preparation of WHO's water safety plans that take a comprehensive risk assessment and management approach to each step in the provision of water from the source of the water to the consumer. We have piloted these plans in India, Bangladesh, Kyrgyz Republic and Uganda.

We are increasing our expenditure on water: in Africa this will reach £95 million per year by 2007-08 and double to £200 million per year by 2010-11.

Palestininans: Education

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid was given to the Palestinian Authority to spend on education in the latest period for which figures are available; and what steps his Department takes to ensure that aid given to the Palestinian Authority is not spent on educational text books that promote violence and terrorism. [136836]

Hilary Benn: Since the formation of the Hamas government in March 2006, the UK and other members of the EU have not provided support through the Palestinian Authority (PA). Instead, in order to help meet the basic needs of the Palestinian people, the European Union established a Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) in June 2006. Since then the UK has committed £15 million and the European Community around £140 million to the TIM. Other donors have also contributed. The TIM is providing almost £10 million for educational materials to schools in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This does not include

textbooks. It has also provided over £45 million in allowances for 37,000 school and university staff.

Before the January 2006 election, the US Consulate General in Jerusalem reported that it was content with the efforts being made by the Palestinian Ministry of Education to ensure that its curriculum promoted peace and tolerance. Since then, both textbooks and the examined content of courses have not changed. We have no evidence that the Hamas government or the subsequent National Unity Government have put pressure on schools to promote violence or terrorism.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133260]

Mrs. McGuire: The estimated spend on hospitality for the Department of Work and Pensions for 2006-07 is £188,000.

Any expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Propriety and Regularity.

Factories: Kirby

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the health and safety performance of Sonae (UK) Ltd following the change in management in October 2002. [134531]

Mrs. McGuire: The health and safety performance of Sonae (UK) Ltd. has improved following the change in management in October 2002. Since then, there have been no incidents leading to prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and no enforcement notices have been served by HSE. Inspectors who have visited the site since the end of 2002 have been confident that the company have made good progress in managing health and safety.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who have already received payments from the Financial Assistance Scheme will be eligible for increased payments following the new higher cap on assistance payments; and whether any increase will be paid retrospectively. [135130]

James Purnell: 20 people who have already received payments from the Financial Assistance Scheme will be eligible for increased payments following the proposed new higher caps on assistance payments. Increases will apply retrospectively and arrears will be paid back to when the member's entitlement began.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received *(a)* 80 per cent., *(b)* 65 per cent. and *(c)* 50 per cent. of their expected core pension under the financial assistance scheme; and if he will make a statement. [135272]

James Purnell: As at 27 April 2007, 204 members are receiving 80 per cent of their expected core pension under the financial assistance scheme (FAS) and a further 931 members are receiving initial payments topping up to the 60 per cent. level of their expected core pensions.

Under the current scheme no members are receiving 65 per cent. or 50 per cent. of their expected core pension because members for whom this is applicable will not become eligible for those payments before 15 May 2011 and 15 May 2015 respectively. Our announcement of increased funding for FAS will ensure that by then all will receive 80 per cent.

Payments commence at age 65, except in special circumstances where early access to payments can be applied for by scheme trustees for terminally ill qualifying members or to the survivor of a qualifying member. FAS can only consider making annual payments when a scheme has completed the winding up process.

Lone Parents: Income Support

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents *(a)* were claiming income support and *(b)* have been claiming income support for more than five years in May 1997. [137419]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As at May 1997, there were 1,014,200 lone parents in receipt of income support. Of those, 328,000 had been in receipt of the benefit for five years or more.

New Deal Schemes: Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Rotherham received assistance from the New Deal in each year since 1997. [137562]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

New Deal in Rotherham

Period	*Individual starts*	*Individual jobs*
January to December 1998	660	360
January to December 1999	540	400
January to December 2000	480	420
January to December 2001	500	360
January to December 2002	560	390
January to December 2003	690	500
January to December 2004	590	480
January to December 2005	730	330
January to December 2006	840	350
January to February 2007	200	—
Total	5,900	3,710

Notes:
1. Latest data for people into jobs through New Deal is to the end of November 2007; latest data for starts to New Deal is to February 2007.
2. Programme start dates are: New Deal for Young People: January 1998; New Deal 25 plus: July 1998; New Deal for Lone Parents: October 1998; New Deal 50 plus: April 2000; New Deal for Partners: May 1999.
3. Information on starts to New Deal 50 plus is only available from January 2004.
4. Information on people into jobs through New Deal 50 plus broken down by year, is only available at parliamentary constituency level from April 2003.
5. Information on New Deal for Disabled People is not available at parliamentary constituency level.
6. New Deal for Partners data is not available at parliamentary constituency level prior to April 2004.
7. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written statement of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 113-14WS, (1) how many of the estimated number of people with pension losses are *(a)* at or above age 65, *(b)* aged 63 to 64, *(c)* aged 60 to 62, *(d)* aged 57 to 59, *(e)* aged 54 to 56, *(f)* aged 51 to 53, *(g)* aged 48 to 50, *(h)* aged 45 to 47, *(i)* aged 42 to 44, *(j)* aged 39 to 41 and *(k)* aged under 39 years; [135132]

(2) how many of the estimated number of people with pension losses are (a) at or above scheme retirement age, (b) (i) less than three years, (ii) three to five years, (iii) six to eight years, (iv) eight to 10 years, (v) 11 to 13 years, (vi) 14 to 16 years and (vii) more than 16 years away from scheme retirement age. [135133]

James Purnell: The information in the following tables show a breakdown of the estimated number of individuals who have suffered pension losses by age and the number of years away from scheme retirement age. This is based on their age as at May 2004.

Table 1: Age profile of individuals who have suffered pension losses

Age	Number of people
65+	10,000
63-64	6,000
60-62	11,000
57-59	14,000
54-56	12,000
51-53	11,000
48-50	10,000
45-47	10,000
42-44	10,000
39-41	12,000
<39	20,000
Total	125,000

Table 2: Number of individuals who have suffered pension losses by the number of years away from scheme retirement age

Years from scheme retirement age (SRA)	Number of people
At or above SRA	11,000
<3 years	11,000
3-5 years	11,000
6-8 years	13,000
9-11 years	12,000
12-14 years	10,000
15 years+	56,000
Total	125,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and they may not sum exactly to the total due to rounding.
2. Information is based on sample data and should therefore be treated with caution. Breaking down the data into small intervals may not produce reliable estimates.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written statement of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 113-14WS, on occupational pensions, (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of compensation from the extended Financial Assistance Scheme in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* net present value terms for those who are (i) at or above age 65 years, (ii) aged 63 to 64 years, (iii) aged 60 to 62 years, (iv) aged 57 to 59 years, (v) aged 54 to 56 years, (vi) aged 51 to 53 years, (vii) aged 48 to 50 years, (viii) aged 45 to 47 years, (ix) aged 42 to 44 years, (x) aged 39 to 41 years and (xi) aged under 39 years if Pensions Protection Fund (PPF) level benefits were paid and PPF eligibility criteria were applied; [135134]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of compensation from the extended Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* net present value terms for those who are (i) at or above age 65, (ii) aged 63-64, (iii) aged 60-62, (iv) aged 57-59, (v) aged 54-56, (vi) aged 51-53, (vii) aged 48-50, (viii) aged 45-47, (ix) aged 42-44, (x) aged 39-41, (xi) aged under 39 years if Pensions Protection Fund level benefits were paid with eligibility determined according to the present FAS criteria; [135135]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of compensation from the extended Financial Assistance Scheme in *(a)* cash terms, *(b)* net present value terms for those who are (i) at or above age 65, (ii) aged 63 to 64, (iii) aged 60 to 62, (iv) aged 57 to 59, (v) aged 54 to 56, (vi) aged 51 to 53, (vii) aged 48 to 50, (viii) aged 45 to 47, (ix) aged 42 to 44, (x) aged 39 to 41 and (xi) aged under 39 years. [135136]

James Purnell: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Accountancy: Diplomas

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) whether students pursuing the new business, administration and finance diploma will be able to gain qualifications in accounting as part of that diploma; [136895]

(2) whether pursuing the new business, administration and finance diploma will give students a direct non-university progression route towards becoming chartered accountants in the same way as current Association of Accounting Technician national vocational qualifications. [136896]

Phil Hope *[holding answers 15 May 2007]*: The new diplomas in business, administration and finance are being designed to give young people first hand experience and insight into the world of work and a broad based understanding of one or more sectors of employment preparing them to make informed choices of career or further study. They are not designed to provide full occupational competency in accountancy as NVQs are.

The Diploma Development Partnership is working closely with the Association of Accounting Technicians and other relevant professional bodies as it designs the diploma.

Within the mandatory part of the diplomas is an accounting topic that will provide a foundation in accounting for all learners. Learners who wish to progress to become a chartered accountant, or those who simply want more experience in this area, will be able to supplement their mandatory subjects with appropriate choices from the range of options within the diploma. This suite is currently being defined but it is likely to include elements from the existing range of accounting qualifications.

Young people who gain a diploma in business, administration and finance will be able to enter accountancy and other industries, direct from school or college or progress to higher education.

Adoption: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were adopted in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire, *(c)* the West Midlands and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [128339]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of adoption orders made for all children by courts in England and Wales for the period 1 January 2001-31 December 2005 (latest figures available) are:

	Number
2001	5,386
2002	5486
2003	5363
2004	5376
2005	5294

A breakdown of these figures on a geographical basis could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Statistical information on the total number of adoptions is included in the statistics series 'Marriage, divorce and adoptions', volume FM2, published by the Office of National Statistics. A copy of this publication is available in the House of Commons Library and on the National Statistics' website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/FM2no32/FM2_32.pdf

Apprentices

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many apprenticeships were started in each of the last 20 years. [133357]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: Figures for those participating in apprenticeships funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) derive from the Individual Learner Record (ILR). Comparable figures are only available since 2000/01 when the ILR was collated nationally and consistently for the first time by the LSC. The following table shows the number of starts on Advanced Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships since 2000/01.

	Advanced apprenticeships	*Apprenticeships*	*Total*
2000/01	72,400	104,100	176,500
2001/02	54,000	108,300	162,300
2002/03	50,400	122,200	172,600
2003/04	57,000	136,600	193,600
2004/05	53,900	135,100	189,000
2005/06	50,700	120,600	171,300

The average number of apprentices actually in learning in 2005/06 was 254,000, an increase from 75,000 in learning in 1997.

Children's Centres

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations in the National Audit Office report of December 2006 on Sure Start children's centres. [137218]

Beverley Hughes: The National Audit Office's report on Sure Start Children's Centres contained a number of recommendations for the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), for local authorities and their partners, and for children's centres themselves to improve the financial management of children's services. The Public Accounts Committee took evidence from senior officials from DfES in January 2007 and we await their conclusions. We will be issuing guidance very shortly which contains the principles of good governance for children's centres and extended services and includes details of children's centres advisory boards which will support effective financial management and performance monitoring. In the summer we plan further guidance to accompany details of the additional funding for children's centres, resulting from our Comprehensive Spending Review, to help local authorities ensure that resources are effectively targeted, fairly distributed according to need, and achieve value for money.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of issuing precise practice guidance to children's centres; and if he will make a statement. [137219]

Beverley Hughes: The revised Sure Start Children's Centres Practice Guidance, issued last November, is for children's centre managers and practitioners, local authorities, primary care trusts and other delivery partners. It emphasises best practice in how to deliver services and tailor support to meet the individual needs of all young children and their parents, wherever they live, and contains examples of good practice. Many of the principles in the guidance are not new; they have been part of the Sure Start approach from the beginning. We

want to see them consistently applied so that no parents or children miss out on the advantages that Sure Start Children's Centres can bring and good practice becomes common practice in all children's centres. The Together for Children consortium is working with local authorities to support effective networks that draw on evidence based practice and encourage shared learning and knowledge. It is too early to assess the impact of this guidance but it is being monitored through the children's centres performance management framework and future evaluation work.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress the Together for Children partnership has made in supporting and challenging local authority practice on children's centres; and if he will make a statement. [137221]

Beverley Hughes: Together for Children is working with local authorities to help build their capacity to plan, commission and project manage the roll-out of sustainable high quality children's centres. Support plans are being implemented with the agreement of all 150 local authorities, with the level and type of support tailored to their individual needs. There are currently 1,266 designated children's centres, and we are on track to meet our target of delivering 2,500 centres by 2008.

Connexions Card

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Youth Opportunity Card pilot schemes are running; and what evaluation has taken place of the effectiveness of the schemes to date. [137335]

Beverley Hughes: In February we announced we would not be proceeding with the Youth Opportunity Card pilots, because the private sector could not offer a delivery solution at a satisfactory level of certainty and the potential costs meant that value for money could not be assured.

Since then, we have been working with the nine local authority pilot areas to develop alternative ways of empowering individual disadvantaged young people to take part in positive activities of their choice. We hope to come forward with proposals shortly.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 434W, on Departments: training, when he expects to write to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings with the information referred; and if he will place a copy of the information in the Library. [133097]

Bill Rammell: The Department offers a range of corporate skills development including formal off the job training, e-learning and access to a range of learning and coaching materials from our learning and development function. All these are linked to the Professional Skills for Government agenda and our business and improvement objectives.

The Department has also placed great emphasis on good people management. Provision includes line manager coaching and supporting individuals while learning on the job. This is recognised as the most effective way to learn, apply, and develop skills and knowledge. In addition, our provision supports IiP where we have trained internal HP assessors.

The list of internal formal off the job courses available is as follows:

Leadership Programme
Policy Development Skills
Relationship Management
Strategic Thinking
Programme and Project Management
Contract Management
Financial Management
People Management
Drafting and Writing Skills

A copy of the information has been placed in the House Library.

Part-time Education

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what consultations he has undertaken since the publication of the Leitch Report with *(a)* the Open University, *(b)* Birkbeck College and *(c)* other institutions on strategies to increase the proportion of those in work who engage in part-time study. [135984]

Bill Rammell: Representatives from all higher education institutions (HEIs) have been invited to participate fully in the programme of national and regional events designed to build consensus around the Leitch challenges. Ministers and officials informally exchange views with a wide range of HEIs on developing HE-level skills within the workforce.

Developing new models of HE that are flexible, relevant and responsive to the needs of employers and learners already in the workforce is at the core of the Department's employer engagement strategy. The Higher Education Funding Council for England has been tasked by the Secretary of State with delivering an additional 5,000 student places co-funded by employers in the financial year 2008-09, with further growth of at least 5,000 places year-on-year for the following two years. These three years will represent a crucial testing ground for exploring how best to increase the proportion of those in the workforce who engage in higher-level study, many of whom will wish to learn on a part-time basis.

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he has taken since the publication of the Leitch Report *(a)* to increase the number of employees who have access to part-time study in order to gain appropriate qualifications and *(b)* to engage the support of employers in increasing the access of employees to part-time education. [135985]

Phil Hope: The Leitch Review was published on 5 December 2006 and was welcomed in broad terms by the Chancellor on 6 December. The formal response will be published by the Department, on behalf of the Government, this summer.

Since the publication of Lord Leitch's report the Government have continued to promote their new Train to Gain service to encourage employers to train their people with free training available for the low-skilled. As a result 135,860 employees from 36,270 employers are now in learning through part-time, flexibly delivered training.

The Government have already announced the Skills Pledge, another key Leitch recommendation that builds on the model developed in Wales. It will encourage employers to voluntarily commit to train their low skilled employees whether through part-time learning or otherwise. Thus far, 21 Central Government Departments, employing more than 500,000 civil servants, as well as several major employers have already given their commitment to it.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that local authorities are passing the funds allocated for the nursery education grant directly to frontline providers. [137214]

Beverley Hughes: The Government invest £3 billion per year through the Dedicated Schools Grant into funding the free early education entitlement. This provides sufficient funding for the delivery of a universal free early learning entitlement for all children regardless of their parents' income or ability to pay. Local authorities have discretion over the use they make of funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant including the rates at which they fund early education in all types of setting. The 2006 code of practice clearly encourages them to fund early years provision equitably across settings in accordance with local circumstances.

In December 2006 I wrote to local authority chief executives asking them to reassure themselves that providers delivering the free early education entitlement are funded appropriately.

The Schools, Early Years and 14-16 Funding consultation which ends on 1 June sets out a number of proposals for changes to the way the early years funding system operates.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received on the possibility of funding for the nursery education grant passing directly from the Government to the provider. [137217]

Beverley Hughes: We conducted a full public consultation on the 2006 code of practice, to which 585 responses were received, the majority from providers. None of those who responded made representation for funding for the free early education entitlement to be paid from the Government directly to the provider, nor have there been representations on this issue since the code came into force.

Skills Pledge: Public Service

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local government public sector employers with more than 1,000 staff will (i) be participating and (ii) not be participating in the Skills Pledge announced by his Department. [135930]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: The Leitch review was published on 5 December 2006 and was welcomed in broad terms by the Chancellor on 6 December. The formal response will be published by the Department, on behalf of the Government, this summer.

The Skills Pledge, which will be formally launched this summer, is intended to be a specific voluntary commitment by employers that they will support and enable every eligible employee in their workforce to gain basic skills and a first full level 2 qualification.

As a signal that the public sector was prepared to demonstrate its commitment to the Leitch ambition, Permanent Secretaries of 14 Departments gave their commitment to signing a Skills Pledge on 18th April. Since then other Departments have also made a commitment. The Departments thus far committed are:

Cabinet Office;

Department for Constitutional Affairs; Department for Education and Skills;

Department of Health;

Department for Transport;

Department of Trade and Industry;

Department for Work and Pensions;

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs;

Her Majesty's Treasury;

Home Office;

Ministry of Defence;

Foreign and Commonwealth Office;

Government Communications Headquarters;

Department for International Development;

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs;

Department for Culture, Media and Sport;

Department of Communities and Local Government;

Crown Prosecution Service; Office for National Statistics.

In total more than 500,000 civil servants are now covered by a Skills Pledge. Government Skills, the sector skills council for central Government are working with Departments on turning the commitment into action plans. At this stage no Department is expected not to participate.

The Department is working with local authorities and other public sector representatives on how the Skills Pledge can be best delivered for their employees. To date, no commitments have been made, though local authorities and other public sector bodies have made a significant contribution to the basic skills agenda. We will be looking to build on that work for the Skills Pledge through the well-established network of basic skills champions in the public sector.

Written Questions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects to answer question 115982 on children of asylum seekers, tabled by the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green on 11 January. [130601]

Mr. Dhanda: A response was issued to the hon. Member on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 707W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Uzbekistan

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Government of Uzbekistan on Uzbek nationals supporting Taliban forces in Afghanistan. [137101]

Mr. Hoon: Through our diplomatic contacts with the Uzbek authorities, the Government are aware that the Government of Uzbekistan are neither supportive of nor otherwise engaged in the reported activities of those Uzbek nationals in Afghanistan to which the hon. Member refers.

We remain interested in principle in closer co-operation with Uzbekistan aimed at promoting regional stability, including in Afghanistan, as part of a wider dialogue with the Uzbek Government encompassing a range of interests, including our concerns over human rights.

Burma: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she is making to the government of Burma on the targeting of civilians in Karen State. [137116]

Mr. McCartney: We have repeatedly condemned the Burmese army's attacks on civilians in Karen State.

I have raised the human rights situation regularly with the Burmese regime and other Governments in the region. On 16 June 2006, I called in the Burmese Ambassador and on 5 July 2006 I wrote to the Burmese Foreign Minister, highlighting our many concerns. On 18 September 2006, I raised the serious human rights situation with Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ambassadors, including the Burmese Ambassador, and on 4 December 2006 with the ASEAN Secretary-General. I have also raised Burma with the Governments of China, India, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea. I have discussed the human rights abuses taking place in Burma with Juan Mendez, the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. I discussed Burma in detail with Ibrahim Gambari, the UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, on 15 November 2006, following his visit to the country. Most recently, I raised the human rights situation in Burma in my address to the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 13 March and at the EU/ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Nuremberg on 15 March, in the presence of the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister. In addition, our Ambassador in Rangoon regularly raises human rights with the regime, most recently when he met the Burmese Ministers for Planning and Immigration and the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister on 5 January.

On 23 April the EU Council of Ministers called for the Burmese regime to end the military campaign against civilians in conflict areas.

We shall continue to take every opportunity to raise our concerns about all human rights violations in Burma.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking in the UN Security Council to ensure the protection of civilians and relief workers in Burma, in accordance with the Security Council's responsibility to protect. [137118]

Mr. McCartney: We highlighted the impact on civilians of the Burmese Government's campaign against insurgents during the UN Security Council debate on Protection of Civilians on 4 December 2006.

We supported the US-led efforts to have Burma added to the UN Security Council agenda in September 2006 and co-sponsored with the US a UN Security Council Resolution on Burma. This was put to the vote on 12 January. Three states voted against and as such the resolution was not adopted.

Burma remains on the UN Security Council agenda. We support the UN's efforts, including the good offices mission of the UN Secretary-General, to promote peace and national reconciliation in Burma. We will continue to work closely with the UN and with partners to ensure that this effort is sustained.

I have repeatedly raised my concerns about human rights issues with international partners and directly with the Burmese Government. I shall continue to do so.

Estonia: Russia

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Government of Estonia on that country's relations with Russia. [136964]

Mr. Hoon: The Estonian Foreign Minister briefed my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other EU Foreign Ministers on Estonia's relations with Russia at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 14 May. Our Ambassador in Tallinn has held more detailed discussions with the Estonian Government on relations with Russia.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has held with EU partners on relations between Russia and Estonia; and if she will make a statement. [136967]

Mr. Hoon: The Estonian Foreign Minister briefed my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other EU Foreign Ministers on Estonia's relations with Russia at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 14 May. There have also been several debates within the EU and other organisations following the recent dispute over the relocation of a war memorial in Tallinn. We recognise the right of the Estonian government to relocate war memorials and war graves and see this as an internal matter for Estonia. We do not see rhetoric from others, designed to exacerbate the situation, as helpful.

EU Aid: Politics and Government

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* her Department's and *(b)* EU policy is on funding

non-governmental organisations in other democratic countries which campaign actively against those countries' Governments' policies; and if she will make a statement. [132404]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to promoting democratic values and principles, including a vibrant civil society.

We recognise the vital role civil society plays in promoting human rights, democracy and good governance. We value the expertise which many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to implement human rights possess and therefore work with them to encourage governments, including democratic ones, to meet international human rights standards.

The FCO has a range of programme funds which aim to support its work on human rights. The merits of all funding requests are considered on a case by case basis. Further information can be found on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029394988.

The EU has a human rights and democracy programme, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). NGOs are eligible to bid for project funding. Information on the activities and actions of EIDHR is accessible at:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/projects/eidhr/index_en.htm.

To be able to provide the information required by my hon. Friend a more specific request is required. I have asked my hon. Friend to write to me with specific details of his interest in this issue and I will respond to him.

European Constitution Treaty

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will submit any constitutional treaty agreed by the European Union to a vote in the House before it is signed. [136806]

Mr. Hoon: There is at present no consensus among EU partners on the way forward regarding the constitutional treaty or any new treaty. These issues will be discussed at the European Council in June. The Government's approach to these discussions was set out in my written ministerial statement of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS.

As with previous EU treaties, any text agreed would be signed by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and then submitted to Parliament for approval as part of the ratification process.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will submit any EU treaty containing constitutional changes for the EU to a national referendum. [136807]

Mr. Hoon: There is at present no consensus among EU partners on the way forward regarding the constitutional treaty or any new treaty. These issues will be discussed at the European Council in June. The Government's approach to these discussions was set out in my written ministerial statement of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS.

Iran: Hezbollah

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of Iranian attempts to rearm Hezbollah. [137510]

Mr. McCartney: In March the UN Secretary-General reported that there was mounting evidence that Hezbollah is rearming and smuggling arms across the Syria/Lebanon border. While the UN Secretary-General's report did not specifically identify Iran as the supplier of these arms we continue to judge that Iran provides Hezbollah with weapons and finance.

The UK continues to have serious concerns about the role of Iran in the region, including Iran's continued and open support for Hezbollah. The UK has voiced these concerns on several occasions. UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1747 introduced a ban on the export of arms from Iran. We continue to work, along with our international partners, to ensure that UNSCR 1747 is fully implemented.

Pakistan: Immigration

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when HM High Commission Islamabad plans to act upon the decision of the Immigration Judge in the successful appeal of Mrs. K. U. N., wife of Mr. I. G. of Aylesbury (reference OA/26058/2006), the decision on which was promulgated on 19 February and forwarded to HM High Commission on 26 April. [137469]

Mr. McCartney: According to our High Commission in Islamabad a letter inviting the applicant to submit her passport was sent out on 10 May. As soon as the passport has been received the entry clearance can be issued.

Rafik Hariri

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she has taken to support the establishment of a tribunal into the murder of ex-Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in Lebanon. [137509]

Mr. McCartney: The UK has been consistently committed to pursuing justice with regard to the assassination of Rafik Hariri. We were actively involved in negotiations on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1595, which established the UN International Independent Investigation Commission to investigate the crime. We also supported UNSCR 1664 which called for the establishment of a tribunal to try those accused of committing the crimes.

In November 2006, with the UK's support, the then UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, wrote to Prime Minister Siniora inviting the Lebanese government to approve statutes for the tribunal. As yet this has not been possible given the ongoing political crisis in Lebanon. We are currently exploring with Security Council partners how the international community can assist Lebanon in setting up the tribunal.

Saudi Arabia

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when *(a)* she has and *(b)* officials from her Department have met (i) Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud and (ii) his representatives since 1 January 2006; and if she will make a statement. [136897]

Mr. McCartney: Meetings between Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud took place on the following dates:

2 January 2006;

7 February 2006;

10 March 2006;

5 December 2006; and

16 January 2007.

A meeting between officials and Rehab Massoud (Prince Bandar's chief of staff) took place on 18 April 2007.

Saw Lee Reh Kyaw

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the execution of a Karenni humanitarian relief worker, Saw Lee Reh Kyaw, on 10 April. [137075]

Mr. McCartney: We have seen reports about the death of Saw Lee Reh Kyaw, a member of the Free Burma Rangers. Officials from our Embassy in Rangoon do not have access to conflict areas and have not been able to investigate these reports further.

I have raised the human rights situation regularly with the Burmese regime and other Governments in the region. On 16 June 2006, I called in the Burmese Ambassador and on 5 July 2006 I wrote to the Burmese Foreign Minister, highlighting our many concerns. On 18 September 2006, I raised the serious human rights situation with Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ambassadors, including the Burmese Ambassador, and on 4 December 2006 with the ASEAN Secretary-General. I have also raised Burma with the Governments of China, India, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea. I have discussed the human rights abuses taking place in Burma with Juan Mendez, the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. I discussed Burma in detail with Ibrahim Gambari, the UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, on 15 November 2006, following his visit to the country. Most recently, I raised the human rights situation in Burma in my address to the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 13 March and at the EU/ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Nuremberg on 15 March, in the presence of the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister. In addition, our Ambassador in Rangoon regularly raises human rights with the regime, most recently when he met the Burmese Ministers for Planning and Immigration and the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister on 5 January.

Sudan: International Relations

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of *(a)* Russia and *(b)* China on their relationship with the Government of Sudan. [137558]

Mr. McCartney: We regularly discuss relations with Sudan, and the situation in Darfur, with the Chinese and Russian Governments including at the UN. We want China and Russia to use their influence in Sudan to ensure the Government of Sudan supports deployment of a joint African Union/UN peacekeeping force in Darfur, a lasting ceasefire and a renewed political process with rebels in Darfur. We gave this message to the Chinese Government before President Hu's visit to Africa earlier this year.

Turkey: Human Rights

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she plans to discuss the human rights of the Christian community in Turkey with her Turkish counterpart; and if she will make a statement. [137037]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary does not currently have plans to raise the issue of the human rights of the Christian community in Turkey with her Turkish counterpart. Freedom of worship is generally respected. There is more to be done to reduce the difficulties encountered by all minority religious communities. We continue to encourage Turkey to maintain the momentum of reform in all areas, including human rights and freedom of religion.

JUSTICE

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will bring forward legislation to amend the Infant Life Preservation Act 1929 to reduce the period at which a foetus is presumed to be viable from 28 weeks to 22 weeks; what recent representations she has received on the issue; and if she will make a statement. [136818]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no current plans to amend the Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929. No representations have been received on the specific issue recently.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will bring forward legislation to create an offence of deliberately *(a)* injuring and *(b)* killing an unborn child; what recent representations she has received about the issue; and if she will make a statement. [136819]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Killing an unborn child is already an offence. The Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929 creates an offence of killing a child capable of being born alive. The Offences Against the Person Act 1861 creates an offence of procuring an abortion. Compliance with the provisions of the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967 provides a defence to both offences.

There is no specific offence of injuring a foetus. Injuring an unborn child, if proved, is likely to be dealt with in law as an injury to the mother.

We have had no recent representations on this issue.

Absent Voting: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many postal votes were registered in Hendon on 1 May in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and if she will make a statement. [137047]

Bridget Prentice: Information on the number of postal voters registered by constituency is not collated by my Department. However, I understand from the London borough of Barnet electoral services office that the relevant figures are: *(a)* 11,504 on 1 May 2006; and *(b)* 9,991 on 1 May 2007.

The Electoral Commission is collecting data from local electoral registration officers on their numbers of postal voters, in order to inform the Commission's current review of the implementation of the new absent voter personal identifier requirements. The Commission's final report should therefore make clear the extent to which the introduction of postal voter identifiers has affected the number of postal voters across England and Wales.

Departments: Enodian

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what consultancy and research work her Department, including the Hayden Phillips review, has commissioned from the firm Enodian in the last 12 months; at what cost; and for what purpose. [137179]

Vera Baird: Since the Ministry of Justice was only formed on 9 May, my response refers to the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and those bodies which were formerly part of the Home Office which are now part of the new Department. In the past 12 months DCA commissioned Enodian to provide consultancy support as outlined as follows:

Provision of a Business Change Manager to support the implementation of structural changes within Corporate Diversity Unit (value £56,800).

Support to the development of an implementation strategy for raising diversity awareness throughout DCA (value £7,350); and to the design and delivery of diversity leadership briefing for senior officials (value £8,000).

Enodian have very recently been commissioned to provide organisational change management support to the Department's Commercial Group at an approximate cost of £12,000.

The Review of the Funding of Political Parties and the current inter-party talks chaired by Sir Hayden Phillips are both independent of the Department. Enodian provided consultancy support and advice relating to the review (value £19,200) and subsequently have been engaged to lead the secretariat to the inter-party talks (at an expected value of between £32,000 and £40,000).

No consultancy or research work was commissioned with Enodian by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, the National Offender Management Service or HM Prison Service.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many staff in her Department are classified as people without posts. [137078]

Bridget Prentice: There are currently 67 employees within the Ministry of Justice who are potentially without posts.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department and its predecessor held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136859]

Vera Baird: Since May 2005 no Ministers from my Department held meetings with Sovereign Strategy. Information from before May 2005 cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost. Civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Domestic Violence: Foetal Death

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many pregnant women in England were physically assaulted by a partner or former partner which resulted in the death of the unborn child in each of the last 20 years for which figures are available. [136820]

Mr. Sutcliffe: These figures are not held centrally.

Elections: Fraud

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what estimate her Department has made of the incidence of electoral fraud in the form of treating of electors in the latest period for which figures are available. [137184]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Commission's initial analysis of the CPS files on allegations of electoral malpractice between 2000 and 2006, indicate that seven allegations concerning the offence of treating were made during that period.

Electoral Administration Act 2006

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will make a statement on the causes of the drafting errors in the Electoral Administration Act 2006 which have resulted in section 69(a) of the Act not being implemented; and what steps are being taken to remedy them. [137182]

Bridget Prentice: Section 69 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 provides for electoral administrators with new powers to promote participation in the electoral process.

There are no drafting errors in this section of the Act, and it was commenced in time for the 3 May 2007 local elections.

Electoral Register: Armed Forces

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many service voters were registered to vote in each year since 1997 prior to the abolition of the designation of service voting. [137187]

Bridget Prentice: I should make clear that there has been no abolition of the service declaration as a means by which relevant individuals can register as an elector. The Representation of the People Act 2000 placed a time limit on the validity of—but did not abolish—a service declaration, but also provided relevant individuals the option of registering as a normal elector rather than as a service voter.

Information on the number of individuals registered as electors under a service declaration prior to 2001 is not available. The Office for National Statistics figures confirm the number of individuals registered as service voters under a service declaration from this date is as follows.

Number

	England and Wales	*Scotland*	*Great Britain*
16 February 2001	157,770	17,705	175,475
1 December 2001	139,686	16,289	155,975
1 December 2002	49,122	3,067	52,189
2 December 2003	30,271	2,100	32,371
2 December 2004	21,122	1,707	22,829
3 December 2005	19,028	1,576	20,604
4 December 2006	19,350	1,656	21,006

Norwich Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when she will publish a response to the report dated 10 May by HM Inspector of Prisons on HM Prison Norwich with *(a)* a detailed plan of and *(b)* a timetable for the completion of all necessary remedial action. [137452]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In a protocol agreed with HMCIP and Ministers the Prison Service will aim to produce an initial action plan within two months of the date of publication. This action plan sets out what action will be taken in respect of each recommendation, and the timetable for that action. The plan is updated 12 months after publication.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the total operational capacity of the prison estate was in each month in 1997. [137113]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The useable operational capacity of the prison estate for each month in 1997 is listed in the following table.

1997	*Operational capacity*
January	58,975
February	59,309
March	59,576
April	60,353
May	60,927
June	61,601
July	62,366
August	63,053
September	63,240
October	63,651
November	64,293
December	64,787

Prison Service: Greater London

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many managed moves were announced for London *(a)* prison governors and *(b)* their deputies in each of the last two years; how many of these appointments were as a result of open competition; and if she will make a statement. [137290]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been seven vacancies for governing governor posts in the London area over the last two years. Five of these posts were appointed via managed appointments and two as a result of open competition.

There have been five vacancies for deputy governor posts in the London area over the last two years. Four of these posts were appointed via managed appointments and one as a result of open competition.

The following table illustrates the figures given and the time scales in which they were appointed;

Post	*1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006*	*1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007*	*1 April 2007 to 14 May 2007*	*Managed moves*	*Open competition*	*Total*
Governing governor	4	2	1	5	2	7
Deputy governor	3	1	1	4	1	5
Total	7	3	2	9	3	12

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many additional staff are planned to be recruited to ensure new facilities, including *(a)* new prison builds, *(b)* conversion of existing facilities, *(c)* additional units and *(d)* prison ships coming on stream are fully staffed on current projections; what funding will be available to achieve this; and if she will make a statement. [137283]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At this stage it is not possible to specify the number of personnel that will be required to staff the new prison facilities included in the prison capacity programme.

For new-build prisons the design will dictate the number of staff that are required to deliver the services and regimes, so the staffing levels can only be determined once the contracts for development have been awarded.

Prison Service: Pay

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) when she expects the review of required hours allowance payments in HM Prison Service to be completed; what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number of HM Prison Service staff incorrectly in receipt of required hours allowance and *(b)* value of incorrect payments; whether she plans to publish the review into required hours allowance payments; and if she will make a statement; [137279]

(2) how many non-operational managers receive required hours allowance payments in HM Prison Service; what the cost of these payments was in the last 12 months; who is responsible for authorising these payments; if she will place the criteria for authorising these payments in the Library; and if she will make a statement; [137289]

(3) how many non-operational *(a)* heads of personnel and *(b)* heads of management units within HM Prison Service are in receipt of required hours allowance payments; and if she will make a statement. [137304]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The criteria for the payment of required hours allowance (RHA) is laid out in the 2001 Pay Code (Phase One of Pay and Grading), Notice to Staff 3/2000 (Pay and Grading Phase 1), and paragraph 7.9 of the Prison Service staff handbook. All are available electronically on the Prison Service intranet, and from the Library of the House.

RHA is considered for those Prison Service manager posts where the role requires regular unpredictable and unsociable working hours by the post holder. This will apply to both operational and non-operational posts in headquarters, area offices and prisons. There are 1,370 posts across the Prison Service which receive RHA at an annual cost of £7,158,250.

The decision to authorise payment of an allowance through salary, is made by the Deputy Director, HR Policy and Reward (formerly Head of Pay and Employee Relations Group).

The first stage review of all those within Prison Service headquarters and area offices in receipt of RHA, has now been completed. The review of posts currently in receipt of RHA within establishments will be concluded by May 2008.

At the end of the review a summary of the findings will be published through the Prison Service intranet.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many breaches of the regulations relating to the use of *(a)* time off in lieu, *(b)* ex gratia payments and *(c)* other supplementary payments occurred in HM Prison Service in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [137298]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Sick Leave

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many cases of HM Prison Service staff reporting absent as a result of work-related stress there were in each of the last four years; and if she will make a statement. [137288]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service does not record the cause of stress related absences.

Prison Service: Training

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the legal requirements are for the provision of training for HM Prison Service staff managing informants; and if she will make a statement. [137306]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no legal requirements for the provision of training to staff managing informants.

Prisons: Smuggling

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to her answer to the hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight) of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 892W, on prisons: smuggling, what the grade was of the staff member responsible for commissioning the investigation into the Independent Monitoring Board member found trafficking unauthorised articles into a prison establishment; how much in *(a)* expenses and *(b)* allowances had been paid to the independent monitoring board member concerned; and if she will make a statement. [137355]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on individual expense claims is not held centrally.

Prisons: Standards

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many members of independent monitoring boards had their appointments terminated in each *(a)* HM Prison Service regional area and *(b)* contracted prison; and if she will make a statement. [137308]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since August 2003 there has been one Independent Monitoring Board member who has had their appointment terminated in the London area, three members from the East Midlands area, one member from the Surrey and Sussex area, two members from the North West area, one member from the South West area, and one from the Thames Valley area. Also two members of Boards in contracted prisons have had their appointments terminated in the reporting period.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what *(a)* allowances and *(b)* expenses are available to members of independent monitoring boards; what the total cost of payments was to independent monitoring board members of each prison establishment in each of the last four years; and if she will make a statement. [137309]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The total expenditure claimed by Independent Monitoring Board members in the last four years is:

	£
2003-04	832,389
2004-05	877,133
2005-06	1,146,940
2006-07	1,023,380

The request to provide the total cost for allowances and expenses for each of the establishments for the last four years cannot be answered on the grounds of disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Swimming Pools

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisons have swimming pools for use by inmates; and if she will make a statement. [136724]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Five prisons have swimming pools which are used by prisoners. They are at Holloway, Portland, Aylesbury, Standford Hill and Blantyre House. Where operational circumstances permit, these pools are made available to local groups.

HEALTH

Acute Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staffed inpatient and day case beds there were in each major acute hospital in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [135883]

Andy Burnham: Data on beds are collected at trust, rather than hospital level.

A table which shows the average daily number of available beds in (i) wards open overnight and (ii) wards open day only for national health service organisations in England in 2005-06 (the latest year's data) has been placed in the Library.

Arun Community Hospital

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1263W, on Arun Community hospital, to whom NHS South East Coast is accountable. [135824]

Andy Burnham: South East Coast strategic health authority (SHA) is a statutory organisation and has a board made up of both executive and non-executive directors. SHAs operate under powers delegated to them by the Secretary of State, and function as the local headquarters of the national health service.

SHAs are subject to direction by the Secretary of State about their exercise of functions. In practice, SHAs are held to account via their chief executives by the NHS Chief Executive, on behalf of the Secretary of State, for ensuring their local health systems operate effectively and in line with Government policies.

Departments: Arms Length Management Organisations

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by each of her Department's arm's length bodies on *(a)* public relations companies and *(b)* other consultants in each of the last three years. [137560]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Departments: Publications

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department commissioned new research to support the clinical case for change reports published by *(a)* the national adviser for surgery on 17 April 2007, *(b)* the national director for primary care on 5 February 2007, *(c)* the national director for emergency access on 5 December 2006, *(d)* the national director for heart disease and stroke on 5th December 2006, *(e)* the national clinical director for children, young people and maternity services on 6 February 2007 and *(f)* the national director for older people on 29 January 2007; and what the total cost to the public purse of producing each of these reports has been, inclusive of development and publication costs. [135866]

Andy Burnham: Further to the answer given on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 316W, these are personal reports written by the national clinical directors. They use the most up to date evidence available in each of their specialities. No new research has been commissioned specifically for these documents. Further to the answer given on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 948W, the printing and publication costs of the seven reports is an average of £2,762 each making a total cost of £19,334.

GPs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner consultations took place in each year since 1997-98. [123136]

Andy Burnham: The number of general practitioner consultations carried out each year is not routinely collected centrally.

Health Professions: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what ongoing funding is provided by her Department to the Health Professions Council. [133576]

Andy Burnham: According to our records no funding has been paid to the Health Professions Council (HPC) by the Department since April 2004. The HPC is an autonomous organisation funded by registration fees and does not receive funding from the Department.

Health Services: Public Participation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why the consultation on the 10 core principles for those providing care to patients which her Department launched on 11 December 2006 differ from those on the NHS website at http://www.nhs.uk/England/AboutTheNhs/CorePrinciples.cmsx. [123151]

Andy Burnham: The principles on the national health service website referred to are those published in the NHS Plan 2000. On 11 December 2006, the Department published a new set of draft principles for consultation, which will be incorporated into the new NHS contract for hospital services.

The NHS is changing from a top-down, centrally led service to a more flexible and responsive patient-led service where the needs of individuals are at the centre of health care. The updating of the core principles will reflect the changes in the provision of health services, and ensure that they are applicable to all providers of hospital care to NHS patients.

Hospitals: Private Sector

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines she has issued to hospital trusts on *(a)* the provision by private companies of non-medical services for patients and *(b)* the level of charges imposed. [120032]

Andy Burnham: The Department has issued guidance to the national health service on charging patients for bedside telephone and television services. In order to make these services available, a tender exercise was undertaken and a number of companies were licensed to provide these services to the NHS. The licence documentation contains guidance on acceptable charging strategies within the NHS.

The procurement of other non-medical services is the responsibility of the local NHS, and it is for them to manage these contracts and ensure they offer value for money.

James Paget NHS Foundation Hospital

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget was for the James Paget NHS Foundation Hospital in each year for which figures are available. [135217]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the chair of James Paget University Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust. We have written to John Hemming informing him of my hon. Friend's inquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Morbidity and Mortality Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* morbidity and *(b)* infant mortality rates for (i) Gypsy, (ii) Traveller and (iii) white British populations were in (A) 1987, (B) 1997 and (C) 2007. [111803]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS: Databases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* code and *(b)* title is of all data returns required by her Department from (i) NHS trusts, (ii) primary care trusts and (iii) strategic health authorities; how frequently each is required; and how many items need to be recorded for each data return. [135892]

Andy Burnham: The information has been placed in the Library.

Although exact information on the number of items that need to be recorded on each data return is not collated centrally, information on some returns is in the NHS data dictionary, available at:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/datadictionary.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of removing targets from the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [134486]

Andy Burnham: "Our health, our care, our say" and the Local Government White Paper Strong and prosperous communities, set out the strategic direction for delivering the next phase of reform, where the system is more flexible and responsive to patient and user needs, which means greater local control and ownership of service improvements and less direction from the centre.

We have already shifted the focus of national health service targets to make sure that they underpin improvements in health outcomes and patient experience, and reduced the numbers of new national requirements agreed through previous spending reviews, to support devolution.

The NHS is now entering a new phase, where reforms are embedded to enable lasting transformation of the whole system of care delivery, and support a more locally driven, innovative and patient-led NHS no longer reliant on top down performance management as we know it.

Primary Health Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the isolated contractual difficulties were with primary care services in some parts of the country referred to in paragraph 1.5.2 of her Department's Winter Report 2006-07, published 3 April; in which primary care trusts the isolated contractual difficulties arose; and if she will make a statement. [135865]

Andy Burnham: Primary care trusts now have a legal responsibility to make sure patients are well cared for during the out-of-hours period and are responsible for performance managing their providers in the delivery of out-of-hours services.

The Department does not routinely collect performance information on out of hours services. However, concerns about the out-of-hours service in Cornwall have been

raised in the House on 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1WH, by the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor).

Since then, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust has worked with the provider, Serco, to put in place an improvement plan including an increase in staffing and capacity. South West Strategic Health Authority reports that the service is improving and it is now hitting 100 per cent. on many targets.

In addition, in response to an issue raised by the coroner for inner north London, the Department issued Directions to primary care trusts in December 2006 requiring them to review arrangements locally to ensure adequate systems are in place to support continuity of care and ensure patient safety is safeguarded.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1325-27W, on the private finance initiative, what the reasons are for the differences between the capital values listed in the answer and those in her Department's press release of 27 February entitled Mapping the Success of NHS Building schemes Since 1997 for the schemes proposed by *(a)* the Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust, *(b)* the Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust, *(c)* Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, *(d)* Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, *(e)* Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust and *(f)* the North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust. [131859]

Andy Burnham: The principal reason for any change to the capital values of the schemes at the Tees Esk and Wear Valley National Health Service Trust, the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust, Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust and the North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust was that the review of private finance initiative schemes led the trusts concerned to reconsider how their schemes could best be structured in order to deliver services, in the most cost effective way and ensure their long-term viability. A key part of this work was an assessment of the capacity assumptions to ascertain if these were realistic and properly suited to the needs of the local health economy; and a review of the estate in terms of current and planned building stock to ensure optimal use.

In consequence all the schemes, with the exception of that at the Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust, underwent structural changes, details of which have been published and are available locally.

In addition, the prices given in February 2006 did not reflect the fact that the schemes at both Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust and the North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust were still pursuing a number of options. This meant that by the time the review came to consider these schemes their capital values had increased.

The figures given in the 27 of February press notice for Mid Yorkshire included £37 million of public capital that was not included in the figure given in February 2006.

Royal London Homeopathic Hospital

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to prevent the closure of the Royal London Homeopathic hospital. [135189]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the Chair of University College London Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust. We have written to Peter Dixon informing him of the hon. Member's enquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

West Hertfordshire NHS Trust

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library the minutes of the meeting between her Department's officials and West Hertfordshire NHS Trust on 31 July 2006. [112328]

Andy Burnham: Departmental officials met with representatives of the Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust on 31 July 2006 primarily to discuss mental health policy. No formal notes were taken. Neither the Secretary of State, nor her Ministers nor officials have had representations made to them by West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust. I regret that my written answer on 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1762W, mistakenly said that the meeting had taken place with West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Gift Aid

5. **Anne Milton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on changes in the level of gift aid relief to charities. [137266]

7. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on changes in the level of gift aid relief to charities. [137268]

Edward Miliband: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and I have discussed the increase that we have seen in the resources going to charities through gift aid from £134 million to £750 million since 1997 and the need to build on this. We will be consulting the charitable sector in the coming months on measures to increase take-up of gift aid, improve the use of payroll giving and ensure greater awareness of how to give in a tax-effective way.

10. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the levels of gift aid to charities over the last two years. [137271]

Edward Miliband: In the last two years for which figures are available, the amount of money going to charities through gift aid has risen by £164 million from £586 million in 2003-04 to £750 million in 2005-06. This increase is higher than the total amount being paid under gift aid in 1996-97, which was just £134 million.

Olympics: Lottery Funding

6. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the likely effect on third sector organisations of the reallocation of lottery funding to pay for the 2012 Olympics. [137267]

Edward Miliband: As announced earlier this year, the extra resources from the Big Lottery Fund will come from the money that would have gone to statutory agencies and the resources going to the third sector will be protected. The other distributors contributing to the Olympics have said they do not expect existing commitments to be affected and will make specific announcements about future programmes in due course.

Social Exclusion

8. **Lyn Brown:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the balance of costs and benefits of intervening in the early years of a child's life to prevent social exclusion. [137269]

Hilary Armstrong: Early intervention is a guiding principle of the Social Exclusion Action Plan. This report highlighted the relative costs and benefits of a rigorously tested programme, the Nurse Family Partnership from the US that provides intensive home visiting services by health visitors to disadvantaged mothers from pregnancy until the child is two-years-old. The evaluation showed that for every $1 invested in the US programme, $5 is saved down the line. The Government are currently considering what can be learnt from this early intervention approach, with pilots of the programme being launched in 10 sites across England.

Local Government: Third Sector

9. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the relationship between local authorities and the third sector. [137270]

Edward Miliband: The relationship varies across the country and we want to do more to improve the quality of the partnerships between local authorities and the voluntary sector. That is why the Local Government White Paper contains important commitments to help the voluntary sector: for example, making the Compact part of local government inspection, encouraging asset transfer to the voluntary sector and setting a new expectation that three year funding is passed on by local government to the voluntary sector.

Delivery Unit

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 537W, on the Delivery Unit, by what means the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit provides performance management in key delivery areas; [136308]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 537W, on the Delivery Unit, for which key delivery areas the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit *(a)* is providing performance management and *(b)* has provided performance management in the last 12 months; [136311]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 538W, on the Delivery Unit, which *(a)* education, *(b)* health, *(c)* home affairs and *(d)* social exclusion targets the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit is focusing on; [136312]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 538W, on the Delivery Unit, in which areas the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit *(a)* is facilitating cross-Government working and *(b)* has facilitated cross-Government working within the last 12 months; [136313]

(5) on what projects the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has started work in the last two months; [136328]

(6) what projects the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit is planning to work on over the next 12 months; [136329]

(7) on what projects the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's *(a)* justice team, *(b)* asylum and migration team, *(c)* local area agreement team, *(d)* health team and *(e)* education team are working. [136330]

Hilary Armstrong: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit provides performance management by:

Monitoring and reporting on delivery of the PM's top delivery and reform priorities.

Identifying the key barriers to improvement and the action needed to strengthen delivery

Strengthening departments' capacity to deliver, through capability reviews and sharing knowledge about best practice in delivery.

Supporting the development of high quality PSA targets.

Supporting stocktakes with the Prime Minister and Ministers.

Areas of focus, presently and over the last year include work in the following areas:

Health

Education

Home Affairs

Communities and Local Government

The Unit seeks to facilitate cross-Government working in all these delivery areas. Over the last 12 months projects with a particular emphasis on cross-government working have been work on Local area agreements, respect, migration, social exclusion, delivery models and sustainable procurement.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit *(a)* is conducting and *(b)* has conducted in the last 12 months reviews of (i) the identity cards scheme, (ii) the building schools for the future programme, (iii) the connecting for health programme, (iv) the city academies programme, (v) the foundation hospitals programme, (vi) the use of private prisons, (vii) Home Office restructuring or competence to meet its core objectives, (viii) Sure Start and (ix) the New Deal. [136317]

Hilary Armstrong: Over the past 12 months the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has carried out a number of joint reviews with Government Departments, with a particular focus on health, education, home affairs and communities and local government. Other reviews have covered sustainable procurement and delivery models.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the objectives are of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit for 2007-08. [136326]

Hilary Armstrong: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's objective for 2007-08 is to help Government deliver better and more efficient public services. It works predominantly in the areas of health, education, asylum and migration, justice and communities and local government.

Policy Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1017W, on the Policy Review, which part of the answer given to the hon. Member for Pendle on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2198W, or the related document placed in the Library, refers to the payment to external organisations or companies as part of the Policy Review. [137174]

Hilary Armstrong: The answer given to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2198W referred to a previous answer given to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2127W. The last paragraph of this included a figure for the costs of the deliberative exercise which were payments to an external organisation.

Public Appointments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what public appointments she has made since her appointment as Chancellor. [136665]

Hilary Armstrong: Since my appointment, I have made the following public appointments to the boards of public bodies sponsored by the Cabinet Office:

Body	*Appointee*	*Position*	*Term of appointment*
Better Regulation Commission	Lynne Berry	Members	1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008
	Michael Gibbons		
	Janet Russell		
	Eve Salomon		
	Sarah Veale		
Compact Commission	John Stoker	Chair (designate)	1 October 2006 to 31 September 2009
Futurebuilders Advisory Panel	Jill Pitkeathley	Chair	1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008
	Mohammed Amran	Members	1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008
	Imtiaz Farookhi		
	Margaret Hyde		
	Pamela McHale		
	Bhupendra Mistry		
	Maureen Salmon		
	Anna Southall		
	Ted Unsworth		
	Sarah Wood		
Local Better Regulation Office	Clive Grace	Chair (designate)	1 July 2007 to 1 July 2012

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices were issued for *(a)* consumption of alcohol and *(b)* selling alcohol to under-age people in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire and (vi) Norfolk in each year since the penalty scheme came into use. [134681]

Mr. Coaker: Information from the Penalty Notice for Disorder Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform covering the offences requested for the years 2004, 2005 as well as provisional data for 2006, is provided in the following table.

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued for selected alcohol related offences in selected police force areas, 2004, 2005 and provisional data for 2006[1]

	Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises			*Sale of alcohol to a person under 18*		
Police force area	*2004*	*2005*	*[2]2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*[2]2006*
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	2	12
Cambridgeshire	—	1	1	—	11	24
Essex	—	1	2	7	120	91
Hertfordshire	—	—	3	—	3	36
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	10
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	19	20
Total	—	2	6	7	155	193

* = not applicable
[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
[2] Data for 2006 is unpublished and provisional

Antisocial Behaviour: Bus Services

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has reviewed whether there should be an additional offence for throwing *(a)* stones and *(b)* other missiles at buses which could potentially cause harm to (i) property and (ii) persons. [137291]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Offences of assault, criminal damage or attempted criminal damage already apply in this situation. Assault can apply whether or not there was any injury. The criminal law applies whether the missiles are aimed at buses or elsewhere.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his Department will consider whether throwing missiles at buses should be an aggravating factor in sentencing for criminal damage. [137405]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Sentencing Guidelines Council is responsible for issuing sentencing guidelines which criminal courts must take into account. In December 2006, after consultation, the Council issued a guideline on seriousness, which included a comprehensive list of aggravating and mitigating factors of offences. These factors include the use of weapons in the commission of an offence, and attacks made on those providing a service to the public.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average penalty handed down was for offences relating to throwing stones or other missiles at buses in each of the last five years. [137407]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Statistics collected centrally do not allow the offence of throwing stones or other missiles at buses to be separately identified from other criminal offences.

Antisocial Behaviour: Young People

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of area curfew schemes for young people to combat criminal and antisocial behaviour. [137095]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

No assessment has been made of the success of local child curfew schemes under section 14 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as they have not been used.

However, between January 2004 and 1 April 2006, the police have used the power in section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act to disperse unruly groups in over 1,000 designated areas. In these areas, the police have succeeded in tackling underage drinking, joyriding, noise nuisance, the antisocial use of fireworks and the harassment and intimidation of residents.

This is one example of our commitment to empowering local communities to tackle the blight of antisocial behaviour

Section 30 also gives the police power to return to their homes young people under 16 who are unsupervised in public places in such areas after 9 pm. A young person may have a legitimate reason for being out at night unsupervised and the power to return young people to their homes is discretionary: it is not a curfew.

This power protects young people from the risks posed by being unsupervised at night in public places within particular areas where they might get involved in, or become victims of, antisocial behaviour and helps the police to protect local communities from the alarm and distress that unsupervised young people can cause. Statistics for police exercising the power to return home young people under 16 are not available.

The section 30 powers are not intended to be used in isolation, but should form part of an integrated response to tackling crime and disorder and antisocial behaviour in local areas. This includes work by YOTs to prevent young people getting involved in offending and antisocial behaviour.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many owners of dogs registered on the Index of Exempted Dogs have been prosecuted since 1991 under *(a)* section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and *(b)* the Dogs Act 1871. [122351]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of people proceeded against at magistrates court under section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, and the Dogs Act 1871 in England and Wales, 1991 to 2005, is shown in the following tables.

The database, however, does not record whether any of the people proceeded against were owners of dogs registered on the Index of Exempted Dogs. Neither does the Index of Exempted Dogs record whether an owner of a dog on the index has been subject to any court proceedings.

Figures for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court for offences relating to section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, and the Dogs Act 1871, in England and Wales, 1991-2005[1, 2]

Statute	Offence description	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1).	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person.	0	310	349	286	259	221	259	434

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court for offences relating to section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, and the Dogs Act 1871, in England and Wales, 1991-2005[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3).	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person.	0	20	36	25	22	18	22	28
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1).	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused.	0	388	307	196	189	162	175	247
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3).	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non- public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person.	0	30	21	8	18	4	10	12
Dangerous Dogs Act 1989 Dogs Act 1871 Sec 2.	Failure to comply with an order to keep a dog under proper control etc. Dangerous dog not kept under proper control.	1,031	889	609	551	510	513	492	454
Total		1,031	1,637	1,322	1,066	998	918	958	1,175

Statute	*Offence description*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1).	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place causing any person.	449	458	490	537	560	597	645
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3).	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person.	34	48	50	38	52	48	44
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1).	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused.	254	266	278	284	329	290	278
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3).	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person.	9	24	20	18	20	11	24
Dangerous Dogs Act 1989 Dogs Act 1871 Sec 2.	Failure to comply with an order to keep a dog under proper control etc. Dangerous dog not kept under proper control.	401	462	374	336	335	352	306
Total		1,147	1,258	1,212	1,213	1,296	1,298	1,297

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Note:
Offence codes for Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 were introduced to the court proceeding database from 1 January 1992.

Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Driving Offences: Foreigners

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted in each of the last five years (i) were not UK citizens, (ii) did not hold a valid British driving licence and (iii) had not applied for a British driving test. [127656]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the individual circumstances of offenders is not held on the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, therefore the requested information is unavailable.

Drug Interventions Programme

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) budget allocation is for each intensive DIP area in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [132345]

Mr. Coaker: Over £500 million has been invested as part of the Drug Interventions Programme since its inception in 2003. Record numbers of offenders are entering treatment through the programme and drug related acquisitive crime has reduced substantially. The DIP Main Grant, which is the key mechanism for allocating budgets to areas, is being allocated to intensive areas as in the following table.

Indicative intensive area budgets 2007-08

	Amount (£)
London	
Brent	1,203,160
Camden	1,191,678
Croydon	1,001,817
Ealing	988,786
Enfield	759,292
Greenwich	827,205
Hackney	1,513,524
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,118,469
Haringey	1,243,541
Hounslow	794,244
Islington	1,333,277
Kensington and Chelsea	1,008,137
Lambeth	1,930,537
Lewisham	1,378,539
Newham	1,357,782
Redbridge	663,812
Southwark	1,655,389
Tower Hamlets	1,415,658
Waltham Forest	925,327
Wandsworth	1,034,156
Westminster	2,016,350
Yorkshire and Humber	
Barnsley	807,613
Bradford	1,926,287
Calderdale	685,101
Doncaster	1,317,965
Kingston upon Hull	1,422,020
Kirklees	1,219,885
Leeds	2,737,443
North East Lincolnshire	914,255
North Lincolnshire	786,869
Rotherham	756,064
Sheffield	2,348,164
Wakefield	1,094,559
East Midlands	
Leicester	1,558,632
Northamptonshire	1,034,269
Nottingham	1,794,787
Nottinghamshire	2,339,136
East of England	
Luton	700,528
Peterborough	774,057
South West	
Bristol	2,448,659
North East	
Gateshead	627,944
Hartlepool	669,010
Middlesbrough	1,022,237
Newcastle Upon Tyne	1,290,574
Stockton	688,901
Sunderland	782,823
West Midlands	
Birmingham	5,287,239
Coventry	900,563
Dudley	723,448
Sandwell	1,003,679
Solihull	407,131
Walsall	642,837
Wolverhampton	826,579
North West	
Bolton	1,136,727
Bury	552,298
Liverpool	2,154,389
Manchester	2,848,647
Oldham	890,494
Rochdale	778,885
Salford	771,116
Stockport	664,181
Tameside	823,130
Trafford	693,096
Wigan	1,046,181
South East	
Oxfordshire	1,195,115
Reading	1,106,837
Slough	854,146

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was given to the Drug Interventions Programme in each year since 2003; and what funding he expects to allocate to the programme in each of the next three years. [136178]

Mr. Coaker: Funding for the Drug Interventions Programme for financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08 is in the table. Funding for the programme for future years will not be determined until later this financial year.

Drugs interventions programme funding: 2003-04 to 2007-08

	£
2003-04	47,000,000
2004-05	122,000,000
2005-06	162,000,000
2006-07	172,000,000
2007-08	149,000,000

These figures exclude capital and central administration costs.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Drug Interventions Programme; and if he will make a statement. [136989]

Mr. Coaker: The Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) is a key part of the Government's drug strategy. The programme's central objectives are to get drug misusing offenders out of crime and into treatment.

The programme is meeting its objectives. On average over 3,500 drug misusing offenders are now entering drug treatment each month through the programme and the most recent published crime figures show that recorded acquisitive crime, to which drug-related crime makes a substantial contribution, has fallen by 20 per cent. since the onset of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) (the 12 months to March 2003).

To supplement management data collected in respect of the programme and local evaluations, the Home Office is carrying out a research programme to assess the effectiveness of individual programme components. Findings to date are published on http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/onlinepubs1.html and further evaluations are expected to be published shortly.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to co-ordinate policies on combating the trafficking of women. [135282]

Mr. Coaker: The UK published an Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking on the 23 March. The Action Plan has a dedicated chapter on protection and assistance to adult victims of trafficking and pulls together all the work that is currently under way across Government and sets out what else we plan to do.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what initiatives his Department is taking to combat people trafficking. [136221]

Mr. Coaker: The UK published an Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking on 23 March. The Action Plan sets out proposals for action in the four key areas of prevention, enforcement and prosecution, protection and assistance to adult victims and child trafficking. It pulls together all the work that is currently under way across Government and sets out what else we plan to do.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definitions of human trafficking are given in UK legislation. [136234]

Mr. Coaker: The UK ratified the United Nations Protocol to Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons on 9 February 2006 and uses the definition of trafficking set out in the Protocol. Legislation to comprehensively criminalise trafficking as defined in the Palermo Protocol was introduced by the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2004, introducing wide-ranging offences covering trafficking into, out of or within the UK for any form of sexual offence. An offence, of 'trafficking for exploitation', which includes, for example, trafficking for forced labour and the removal of organs, is included in the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004.

K v. Parole Board

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice is being issued as a response to the case K *v.* Parole Board [EWHC 2413]. [136549]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Guidance regarding the procedures for compiling and disclosing parole dossiers for adult prisoners is contained in Prison Service Order 6000 Chapter five and is available to those responsible for the compilation of parole dossiers on behalf of young offenders.

The Youth Justice Board is working closely with the Parole Board in relation to children and young people who are subject to public protection sentences under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and is disseminating appropriate information to staff working within the secure estate. As a result of this case the guidance is being re-visited to ascertain whether revisions are needed in respect of juveniles and young offenders

Leyhill Prison

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes he has made to the categories of prisoners eligible to be transferred to HMP Leyhill; and if he will make a statement. [135941]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Leyhill continues to take only category D prisoners.

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* convicted of carrying knives in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [135583]

Mr. Coaker: Information on arrests for offences under section 139 (having an article with blade or point in public place) and 139A (having an article with blade or point on school premises) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (as amended by section 4(1) of the Offensive Weapons Act 1996) are not separately identifiable within the arrests collection held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The collection is based on persons arrested for recorded crime by main offence group only, for example violence against the person, robbery, burglary, or criminal damage.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of persons found guilty of offences related to the illegal possession of knives in public, for the years 2003-05, are provided in the attached table.

Information for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts under Criminal Justice Act 1988, section 139 and section 139A[1,2,3,4], England and Wales 2003-05

	Found guilty
2003	5,337
2004	5,821

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts under Criminal Justice Act 1988, section 139 and section 139A[1,2,3,4], England and Wales 2003-05

	Found guilty
2005	6,005

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes offence of possession of a knife or bladed article in a public place and possession of a knife or bladed article on school premises
[3] Data excludes prosecutions and convictions for West Mercia PFA for the offence of 'possession of a knife or bladed article on school premises', until clarification of these cases is obtained.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Prisoners Release: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were released from prison on probation and subsequently returned to prison for breaking their conditions of probation in each London borough in each of the last five years, broken down by category of offence. [133513]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Figures on the numbers of prisoners recalled to prison since 2001 for breaching their licence conditions can be found in the following tables. Details of the original offence and the number of cases specifically within London boroughs are not held centrally and could not be obtained without disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Recalls of determinate sentences[1] taken from Table 10.8 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, England and Wales

	Number of recalls/percentage				
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Parole cases 4 years or more					
recalled	329	420	601	712	993
as percentage of number on parole	11	13	17	17	21
Non-parole cases 4 years or more					
recalled	526	712	1,087	1,172	[2]—
All cases 1-4 years[3]	3,439	4,950	6,415	6,378	[2]—
All cases 1 year plus[3]	4,369	6,323	8,133	8,262	8,678

[1] Excluding Home Detention Curfew recalls
[2] From 2005 ACR and OCR no longer collated separately
[3] Data supplied by Public Protection and Licensed Release Unit of the Home Office

Table 10.9 Recalls from life licence[1] taken from Table 10.9 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, England and Wales

	Number of recalls
	Life licence
2001	30
2002	26
2003	44
2004	71
2005	111

[1] Inmates whose licences have been revoked and were recalled to custody excluding abscondees.

Home Detention Curfew recalls[1,2] taken from Table 10.7 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, England and Wales

	Number of recalls
2001	673
2002	1,479
2003	2,716
2004	3,003
2005	2,627

Prisoners: Repatriation

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress his Department has made in discussions with other countries on the repatriation of their nationals from British prisons. [127880]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Government have been negotiating a prisoner transfer agreement providing for the transfer of prisoners between member states of the European Union. This agreement provides for the transfer of EU nationals to their State of nationality in which they normally live without the consent of the individual concerned. It also creates, for the first time, an obligation on a member state to accept back its nationals. In February the Government participated in a general approach on this agreement. Subject to its formal adoption later this year we expect the agreement to come into force in 2009.

The Government intends to bring forward further amendments to the Repatriation of Prisoners Act 1984, to enable the United Kingdom to ratify the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. The Additional Protocol provides for the transfer of a prisoner, without the consent of the individual concerned, where that prisoner would otherwise be deported at the end of the sentence. The Consent of the receiving State will still be required.

Further, the Home Office is working to identify those countries with which we already have bilateral arrangements who may be willing to renegotiate these arrangements to remove the requirement for prisoners to consent to transfer. The consent of the receiving State would, however, still be required.

Public Service: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* shop workers, *(b)* hospital staff, *(c)* bus drivers, *(d)* firemen, *(e)* police officers and *(f)* other public sector workers were victims of violence at work in the last year for which figures are available. [136419]

Mr. Coaker: The British Crime Survey (BCS) defines violence at work as all assaults or threats, which occurred while the victim was working, that were perpetrated by members of the public. It is not possible for the BCS to provide estimates for the specific groups asked about due to small sample sizes but the latest available estimates for broader occupational groupings are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Risk of violence at work, by occupation, 2003-04 and 2004-05 BCS interviews

Percentage victims once or more	*Assaults*	*Threats*	*All violence at work*	*Unweighted*
Protective service occupations[1]	8.8	1.2	9.7	460
Managers and proprietors in agriculture and services	2.6	2.3	4.6	1,351
Transport and mobile machine drivers and operatives[2]	1.3	1.6	2.7	1,606
Leisure and other personal service occupations	1.0	1.7	2.5	835
Health and social welfare associate professionals[3]	1.1	1.4	2.5	1,683
Health professionals[4]	0.4	2.3	2.3	345
Business and public service professionals	0.4	1.3	1.7	1,044
Sales occupations[5]	0.8	0.9	1.6	2,572
Corporate managers	0.6	0.9	1.4	4,730
Elementary administration and service occupations	0.8	0.6	1.4	3,269
Teaching and research professionals	0.8	0.6	1.3	2,045
Customer service occupations	0.3	0.9	1.1	581
Caring personal service occupations	0.5	0.4	0.8	2,509
Business and public service associate professionals	0.2	0.5	0.7	2,103
Skilled metal and electrical trades	0.2	0.3	0.5	1,846
Textiles, printing and other skilled trades	0.5	0.1	0.5	838
Administrative occupations	0.1	0.4	0.5	3,943
Science and technology associate professionals	—	0.5	0.5	699
Elementary trades, plant and storage-related occupations	0.2	0.2	0.4	1,691
Secretarial and related occupations	0.2	0.4	0.4	1,234
Culture, media and sports occupations	0.1	0.3	0.4	798
Science and technology professionals	0.1	0.4	0.4	1,231
Skilled construction and building trades	0.2	0.1	0.3	1,636
Process, plant and machine operatives	[6]<0.1	0.3	0.3	1,543
Skilled agricultural trades	—	—	—	427
All adults of working age in employment	0.6	0.7	1.3	41,019

[1] Protective service occupations include NCOs and other ranks, police officers, fire service officers, prison service officers and protective service associate professionals n.e.c.

[2] Transport and mobile machine drivers and operators include heavy goods vehicle drivers, van drivers, bus and coach drivers, taxi, cab drivers and chauffeurs, driving instructors, rail transport operatives, seafarers, barge, lighter and boat operatives, air transport operatives, transport operatives n.e.c., crane drivers, fork-lift truck drivers, agricultural machinery drivers and mobile machine drivers and operatives n.e.c.

[3] Health and social welfare associate professionals include nurses, midwives, paramedics, medical radiographers, chiropodists, dispensing opticians, pharmaceutical dispensers, medical and dental technicians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, Speech and language therapists, therapists n.e.c., youth and community workers and Housing and welfare officers.

[4] Health professionals include medical practitioners, psychologists, pharmacists/pharmacologists, ophthalmic opticians, dental practitioners and veterinarians.

[5] Sales occupations include sales and retail assistants, retail cashiers and check-out operators, telephone salespersons, collector salespersons and credit agents, debt, rent and other cash collectors, roundsmen/women and van salespersons, market and street traders and assistants, merchandisers and window dressers and sales related occupations n.e.c.

[6] <0.1 denotes a value under 0.05. Indicates there were no cases in the sample.

Source:
Table A.2.7 from supplementary tables to Home Office online report 04-04 Violence at Work: Findings from the 2002-03 British Crime Survey.

Violence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to develop a strategic framework to address violence against women. [135281]

Mr. Coaker: The Government takes a strategic approach to addressing violence against women, through linked Plans on domestic violence (including forced marriage and honour-based violence), sexual violence and trafficking. Strategic work on sexual and domestic violence will be further integrated over the coming year, with a view to developing a co-ordinated community response to these crimes.

Weapons

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* confiscations of handguns and *(b)* convictions for the possession of handguns there were in each police authority area in each of the last eight years. [133308]

Mr. Coaker: Due to the way in which offences have been categorized, it is not possible to separately identify those firearm offences that specifically relate to handguns.

Written Questions

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer Question 129914, on education in prisons, tabled on 22nd March by the hon. Member for Taunton. [134388]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

A response was issued to the hon. Member on 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 439W.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [136628]

Des Browne: The security situation in Afghanistan remains stable if fragile in places. UK forces as part of the wider ISAF mission are actively engaged in operations to extend the authority of the Government of Afghanistan across Helmand province.

Armed Forces: Airports

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will undertake a comprehensive airfield review. [136700]

Mr. Ingram: The number and operation of military airfields is under review to ensure that the best use is made of the defence estate for our armed forces.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1981W, on armed forces housing, which Housing Directorate regions collected and managed the information in respect of maintenance and refurbishment of properties leased from Annington Homes in each year since 5 November 1996. [136340]

Derek Twigg: When the Defence Housing Executive (DHE) was formed in 1995, it was arranged into 25 areas, 23 of which were in England and Wales, the area covered by the Annington Homes Ltd contract. When DHE became a Ministry of Defence agency in 1999, the number of areas reduced to 19 and they were grouped into nine regions, eight of them in England and Wales.

As an agency, DHE's annual reports and accounts were published and a copy of each placed in the Library of the House. The reports included details of the regions in existence at that time, in England and Wales there were Northern, West, Central, Anglia, London, South West, South and South East.

In April 2004, DHE merged with Defence Estates (DE), another MOD agency and, as of 1 April 2007, the number of regions in England and Wales reduced from eight to six to match the regions of the Housing Prime Contract—the contract to maintain service families accommodation in England and Wales.

Each of the six regions is served by DE housing information centres, located in Warminster, Aldershot, High Wycombe, Thetford, Telford and York. Details of these regions are not included in DE's annual report and accounts.

Armed Forces: Mass Media

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the independently-led review of media access to serving personnel referred to in his oral statement of 16 April and his written statement of 24 April *(a)* has been requested and *(b)* has given any indication that it intends (i) to establish and (ii) to publish the details of the circumstances in which identified individuals took the decision to allow some sailors to sell their stories to the media. [137055]

Des Browne *[holding answer 14 May 2007]*: As I set out in my statements on 16 and 24 April, the independently-led review is designed to be forward-looking, identifying lessons and making recommendations drawing on relevant experience. I have also made clear that the review is not intended to be a witch hunt, and that I accept responsibility for this particular case.

In order to identify lessons and make recommendations for the future, the review will clearly need to consider the circumstances concerned in this and other cases.

I expect to publish the review's report once it is available.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of training exercises were cancelled in 2006-07. [137141]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 15 May 2007]*: During the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, 9.38 per cent. of training events recorded on the Defence Exercise Programme were cancelled.

Armed Forces: Weapons

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* SA-80 rifles, *(b)* 105 mm light guns and *(c)* armoured vehicles, broken down by type are (i) required and (ii) available for training. [137351]

Mr. Ingram: Officials are currently compiling information from a range of sources and this will take some time to complete. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Welfare Support

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what professional qualifications are held by the full-time staff who direct specialist welfare support for service personnel and their dependent families; and if he will make a statement; [136171]

(2) how many uniformed, professionally qualified, full-time staff in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy, *(c)* Royal Air Force and *(d)* Tri-Service specialise in providing welfare support for service personnel and their dependent families; and if he will make a statement. [136172]

Derek Twigg: All full-time staff who direct specialist welfare support for service personnel and their dependant families are registered social workers. The numbers of full-time professionally qualified uniformed staff who are providing support for service personnel are as follows:

Navy—19 uniformed registered social workers, all of whom hold a minimum qualification of a Diploma in social work.

Army—66 uniformed qualified specialist welfare workers, all of whom have to attend a seven month initial training course, credited by the Open University, that leads to a certificate in social and occupational welfare.

RAF—the RAF contract out their welfare service to SSAFA FH; they employ personnel who are registered social workers.

Army Board: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the annual running costs of the *(a)* households and *(b)* offices of non-ministerial members of the Army Board were last audited. [135615]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Internal Audit Team carried out an audit on all Official Service Residences in 2003.

All costs incurred by the offices of non-ministerial members of the Army Board are subject to scrutiny and approval in accordance with procedures set out in Government Accounting. Records indicate that there have been no formal audits conducted of expenditure incurred by these offices in the recent past.

Army: Costs

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 50W, on the Army: costs, what the reasons were for the amount spent on maintenance of the property occupied by the Commander in Chief Land, broken down by main budget heading. [136626]

Derek Twigg: The figure previously provided under the generic heading "maintenance" covered a range of costs including the supply of replacement equipment, redecoration and the rectification of faults. A breakdown of the costs is shown in the table.

Description of maintenance	*Cost (£)*
Legionella Water Sampling	476
Property Repairs	399
Toilet Repairs	118
Electric Faults	46
Internal Light Faults	339
Boiler Repair	581
Oven Repairs	93
External Security Light Repairs	92
Electrical Works	1,820
Tap Repairs	9
Fence Repairs	228
Renew Taps	205
Repair Cooker	125
Repair Fire Alarm	102
Automatic Gates Repair	70
New Cooker	479
New Freezer	357
Decorate Breakfast Room	600
Escape Lighting	674
New Food Processor	169
New Bathroom Mats	46
Bedding and Towels	188
2 Stools for Kitchen	35
Glassware	224
Total	7,475

Army: Manpower

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 142W, on the Army: manpower, what the differences are between the roles of a mess steward and a mess supervisor. [135950]

Derek Twigg: A mess steward is employed as a waiter, barman or to undertake general mess duties. Mess supervisor is a more senior position, which includes line management and accounting responsibilities.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to review the Army manpower target. [137347]

Mr. Ingram: The Army manpower target, as with the other services, is kept under regular review. During the departmental planning process, the requirements of all three services are reviewed and amended if approved, to ensure that we have the right numbers of people to deliver current and future outputs. The requirements of all three services are then approved by Ministers and the Defence Management Board. This process has just been completed for Defence Programme (DP) 2007 and will occur again in Planning Round 2008.

Army: Official Residences

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what sporting facilities are available at the residences paid for by his Department of the *(a)* Adjutant General, *(b)* Chief of the General Staff, *(c)* General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and *(d)* Commander in Chief Land. [136385]

Derek Twigg: The residence occupied by the Adjutant General has a grass tennis court.

There are no sporting facilities at the residences occupied by the Chief of the General Staff, General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and the Commander in Chief Land.

Bridges

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many quick construction bridges are stock-piled for civil contingencies and emergencies; and what estimate he has made of the number required. [137139]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 15 May 2007]:* The MOD does not hold stocks of quick construction bridges (or any other commodity) specifically for civil contingencies or emergencies. However, it does hold a variety of combat and logistic support bridging that could be loaned to assist civil authorities if requested.

Chief of Defence Materiel

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what foreign visits have been made by the Chief of Defence Materiel since January 2005. [137133]

Derek Twigg: The post of Chief of Defence Materiel was established on 2 April 2007. Since that date the Chief of Defence Materiel has made two foreign visits in an official capacity. Between 15-21 April, he visited the United States for a 4/5 Powers Conference. Between 24-25 April he visited Brussels for a Conference of National Armaments Directors meeting.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 960-1W, on the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO), how much has been spent by his Department on appealing against the decision by the Information Commissioner to release a copy of the 2004 edition of the DESO staff directory since the end of January 2007; and what fees have been paid for work to outside counsel and the Treasury Solicitor's Department since the end of January 2007. [136871]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The fees paid to outside Counsel and Treasury Solicitors Department from the 1 February 2007 to 27 April 2007, when the case concluded are as follows:

	Amount (£)
Fees for work by Counsel	26,589.08
Fees for work by Treasury Solicitor's Department	29,881.43
Total (inclusive of VAT)	56,470.51

Further costs may be attributed to this case, but have not yet been submitted.

As I explained in my reply of 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 961W, work has been carried out by staff from a number of areas within the Ministry of Defence and it is not possible to attribute costs specifically relating to this appeal.

Defence Medical Services: Consultants

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Defence Medical Services consultants are *(a)* not currently employed in consultant posts and *(b)* in consultant posts which will end within six months to whom no subsequent consultant appointment has been offered. [134257]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 26 April 2007]:* As at 1 January 2007, there were 20 Primary and Secondary Care Defence Medical Services Consultants who were working out of their particular speciality. These consultants are working in posts (e.g. in headquarters) that require consultant accreditation but not within a particular speciality.

The geographical location of a consultant's appointment—where they carry out their clinical work—is independent of the location of the funding for the post. The funding for these two posts remains in the budget of Portsmouth Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit (MDHU).

There are two consultants currently in consultant appointments which will end within the next six months. One of these appointments is a locum position, which is due to end in the next six months. An alternative appointment is being sought for this consultant. The other appointment relates to a consultant who will be starting refresher training in the near future. This consultant will be re-appointed once training is complete.

Defence: Research

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on defence research and development in each year since 1997. [137349]

Mr. Ingram: This information can be found in Table 1.7 of UK Defence Statistics, the MOD's annual statistical compendium, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who in his Department was responsible for *(a)* writing the specification for the fitting of explosive suppressant foam to UK Hercules aircraft and *(b)* liaising between the contractors to ensure the most efficient working practices; and if he will make a statement. [135072]

Mr. Ingram: The Hercules integrated project team (IPT): part of defence equipment and support, in conjunction with Air Command and the equipment capability customer, was responsible for writing the specification for fitting explosion suppressant foam to the RAF's Hercules aircraft. The Hercules IPT is responsible for ensuring that the contract specifications are completed within the agreed timeframe.

HMS Sussex: Gold

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what value of gold has been recovered from HMS Sussex. [136673]

Derek Twigg: The excavation of what is believed to be HMS Sussex has not yet taken place.

HMS Temeraire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to dispose of the site of HMS Temeraire; and whether the site is included in the Naval Base Review. [136697]

Derek Twigg: HMS Temeraire is being considered as part of the Naval Base Review (NBR), which is examining a number of options to ensure the right infrastructure is in place to support the Royal Navy in the future. Work on the NBR is continuing and no final conclusions have been reached.

Iran: Detainees

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* 5.56 mm and *(b)* 9 mm rounds were carried by each of the 15 service personnel detained by the Iranians in March 2007. [137550]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1015W. It would be inappropriate for me to comment until Lieutenant General Fulton's inquiry is complete.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps will be taken to replace the UK helicopters involved in a collision north of Baghdad on 14 April 2007. [133150]

Mr. Ingram: At the time of the accident on 14 April 2007, a scheduled roulement of aircraft was being conducted in Iraq. As a result of the accident, and in order to minimise the capability gap, one aircraft due to return to the UK as part of this roulement was extended in theatre to provide partial cover for the shortfall. The remaining shortfall is being covered by management of the fleet in theatre until a replacement airframe is sent from Joint Helicopter Command's UK holdings, expected to be on 17 May 2007.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British military personnel serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan (i) were casevacced from theatre, (ii) were injured by enemy action and (iii) have sustained life-changing injuries since 1 January 2006. [136403]

Des Browne: The MOD is committed to publishing statistics on the number of service personnel killed and injured on operations. Casualty and fatality figures for Iraq and Afghanistan are published on the MOD website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets

Casualty figures are updated two weekly, in arrears.

For operations in Iraq, between 1 January 2006 and 15 April 2007, 866 UK military or civilian personnel were evacuated for medical reasons. Over the same period, 164 UK military or civilian personnel have been admitted to UK Field Hospitals classified as wounded in action, of whom 24 were listed as Very Seriously Injured or Wounded and 34 were Seriously Injured or Wounded.

For operations in Afghanistan, between 1 January 2006 and 15 April 2007, 367 UK military or civilian personnel were evacuated for medical reasons. Over the same period, 132 UK military or civilian personnel have been admitted to UK Field Hospitals classified as wounded in action, of whom 18 were listed as Very Seriously Injured or Wounded and 16 were Seriously Injured or Wounded.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcome was of the investigation into the shooting of demonstrators for jobs at Al-Amarah in January 2004; and if he will make a statement. [136679]

Des Browne: Members of the 1st Battalion of the Light Infantry deployed to a riot in Al-Amarah on 10 January 2004 to assist the Iraqi police. Two Iraqis were shot by UK forces, one of whom died. Both were preparing to throw grenades, having already thrown other grenades or explosive devices at UK vehicles, and were a threat to our forces and to local Iraqi civilians.

In accordance with standard procedures, the incident was assessed by the local British commander who concluded that UK forces acted fully within the Rules of Engagement.

Mercenaries: Iraq

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training in human rights legislation was given to *(a)* UK troops and *(b)* private military companies engaged by the UK before they commenced activities in Iraq; and whether private military companies operating at the request of the UK Government are regarded as public authorities for the purpose of the Human Rights Act 1998. [133529]

Des Browne *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* Prior to deploying on operations, all armed forces personnel are given training which includes Law of Armed Conflict and theatre-specific operational law and cultural awareness briefings. Once personnel have deployed, an in-theatre briefing is delivered which reinforces the previous training and updates them on any subsequent developments.

The MOD has not employed any private military or security companies in Iraq and therefore has not been involved in the delivery of training to their personnel, or in determining their status in respect to the Human Rights Act 1998.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what types of helicopter are on order for *(a)* the Royal Navy, *(b)* the Royal Air Force and *(c)* the Army. [136177]

Mr. Ingram: On 30 March 2007 Secretary of State for Defence announced the intention to acquire six Merlin helicopters from Denmark and the modification of eight Chinook Mk3 helicopters to a support helicopter role.

In addition, the number of helicopters currently on order (defined as contract placed but aircraft not yet delivered) are:

	Royal Navy	British Army	Royal Air Force
Future Lynx	30	40	—
Upgrades to Merlin Mk1	30		—
Conversion of Ex Republic of South Africa Puma			2 a/c delivered 2 a/c still to be delivered this year

There are also some other helicopters on order, information on the number and type of which I am withholding as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Navy: Land

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions *(a)* the Royal Navy and *(b)* the Defence Property Agency have had with Portsmouth university about disposals of departmental (i) land and (ii) property; and if he will make a statement. [136749]

Derek Twigg: Neither the Royal Navy nor Defence Estates have had discussions recently with Portsmouth university about the disposal of land or property owned by the Department.

Nimrod Aircraft

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the initial findings of the Royal Air Force board of inquiry into the loss of the Nimrod XV230 over Kandahar Province in Afghanistan in September 2006; and if he will make a statement. [134922]

Mr. Ingram: The Board of Inquiry continues to work to determine the cause of the accident involving Nimrod MR2 XV230 on 2 September 2006. It would therefore be inappropriate to comment at this stage. The findings of the Board will be released as soon as possible after conclusion of the Inquiry; a redacted copy of the report will be made available to the next of kin, other interested parties and placed on the MOD website.

Nuclear Weapons Treaties

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 67, to the hon. Member for Gower, on nuclear weapons treaties, which of the nuclear weapons reductions since 1998 have taken place as a result of multilateral disarmament negotiations. [137112]

Des Browne: The disarmament measures undertaken by the UK, which I referred to in my answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 67W, were pertinent to our obligations towards achieving the general and complete disarmament objectives of Article VI of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty, a multilaterally negotiated treaty. None of the measures have taken place as a result of any separate multilateral disarmament negotiations. The UK has for many years retained only the minimum nuclear capabilities we require and as a result we have the smallest stockpile of any of the nuclear weapon states recognised under the NPT. We believe it will only be useful for us to include our deterrent in multinational negotiations once further progress has been made in reducing global nuclear stockpiles. The UK remains committed to progress in multilateral disarmament and plays a strong role in all the relevant forums.

RAF Dishforth

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the long-term future of Dishforth Airfield. [137223]

Mr. Ingram: We are currently reviewing our long-term requirements for all the UK's military helicopter bases under Project Belvedere. It is too early to say what the outcome of this study will be and what, if any, impact this will have on Dishforth Airfield. An announcement will be made in the House when we are able to say more.

RAF Dishforth: Lynx Helicopters

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the Lynx helicopter fleet to move to Dishforth airfield; [136698]

(2) when he expects the Lynx helicopters to be deployed at Dishforth airfield. [137222]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 153WS, in which I advised that we expect the swap of the two Apache squadrons from Dishforth and the two Lynx helicopter squadrons from Wattisham to take place sometime between June and September of this year.

RAF Leeming

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the communications hub to open at RAF Leeming. [136699]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 5WS, and my letter to her of the same date, that the build up of the A6 communications hub at RAF Leeming has already commenced. The initial move was successfully completed on time in April 2006. We expect that the relocation of communications personnel to the RAF Leeming hub will be complete in 2009.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the communications hub at RAF Leeming to come into effect. [137225]

Mr. Ingram: The hon. Member will be aware from my written statement of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 5WS and my letter of the same date that the build up of the A6 communications hub at RAF Leeming has already commenced. The initial move has been successfully completed on time in April 2006. We expect that the relocation of communications personnel to the RAF Leeming hub will be complete in 2009.

Veterans Day

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many queries the service personnel and veterans agency has received about National Veterans Day 2007. [137350]

Derek Twigg: The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency does not keep records of the number of inquiries received relating specifically to Veterans Day 2007.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Modern Slavery

16. **Lyn Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to encourage his international counterparts to abolish modern forms of slavery. [137242]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Sadly, the slave trade and slavery did not end with the passing of Acts of Parliament in 1807 and 1833. Human beings are still sold, abused and forced to work against their will. This Government are taking action to tackle these modern forms of slavery, both at home and internationally.

On 27 March, we launched a worldwide lobbying campaign on the ratification and implementation of international standards that prohibit slavery.

I have been holding discussions with key UN and other international organisations on what further steps might be taken at the international level.

The House will be aware that, on 23 March, the Government signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. We are now examining what changes might be required to our procedures and legislation to ensure we can fulfil all our obligations and implement the provisions effectively. We will then move towards ratification as soon as we can.

We also published a UK Action Plan which sets out the work we have undertaken and how we plan to take forward this work.

Above all, we are providing essential financial support to end the slavery of ignorance, which blights the lives of so many children around the world: including £8.5 billion on the Education for Every Child initiative, to secure better futures for children across the world.

Animal Rights Activists

17. **David Taylor:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he has taken to oversee and co-ordinate Government policy in relation to animal rights activists. [137243]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to answer I gave to the hon. Member for Oxford, West and Abingdon (Dr. Harris) earlier today.

China

18. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on his recent visit to China. [137244]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have just returned from my tenth visit to China in 10 years. While there I met with Premier Wen Jiabao, State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan and Mayor Han Zheng of Shanghai.

We discussed a range of international and bilateral issues including foreign policy priorities, co-operation on tackling climate change, and the development of sustainable cities.

Among a range of further engagements, I gave a keynote speech at the World Cities Forum in Shanghai, spoke at the China Council for International Co-operation on Environment and Development conference on a low carbon economy, visited a UK engineering firm, addressed a seminar on risk management and hosted a reception to launch the next phase of our sustainable development dialogue with China.

19. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what action is being taken by the China taskforce to improve operation between the UK and China. [137245]

The Deputy Prime Minister: With its Chinese counterpart, chaired by State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan, the taskforce represents a shared commitment to furthering bilateral relations, and to enhancing cooperation across an increasingly wide range of joint interests.

Key achievements arising from taskforce recommendations have included the establishment of annual UK-China prime ministerial summits, greater co-operation across five key areas of trade, an increased number of exchanges between UK and Chinese universities, proposals to simplify Chinese student visa arrangements and to introduce annual UK-China education summits, the signing of a UK-China sustainable development dialogue and the development of a UK-China working group on climate change.

When I met them in China last month, both Premier Wen and State Councillor Tang praised the work of the China taskforce, commenting that the UK-China relationship is closer than ever.

European Policy

20. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he last met the Minister for Europe to co-ordinate Government policy on Europe. [137246]

The Deputy Prime Minister: In addition to discussions in Cabinet and Cabinet committee meetings, I maintain regular dialogue with ministerial colleagues in respect of my international duties.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 17 May 2007

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Life Expectancy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase life expectancy at birth in Africa. [137468]

Hilary Benn: DFID is working to increase life expectancy through a variety of activities including support for the provision of clean water and sanitation, large-scale immunisation and insecticide-treated bednets programmes and addressing related maternal mortality. Safe hygiene practice and improved access to clean water and sanitation are also vital for reducing child mortality. DFID produced the Water Action Plan in March 2004, and we will double our spending on water and sanitation to £95 million by 2007-08.

In Nigeria we are providing £20 million to rebuild routine immunisation services and a further £80 million for malaria control. In Tanzania we continue to provide support for the social marketing of bednets as part of the national Insecticide Treated Net Programme, and in Sierra Leone we are designing a new long term Child Survival and Maternal Health Programme with the World Bank and national partners. In Malawi we are contributing £100 million over six years to the government's essential health and human resource programme, and significant progress has been made on child survival through immunisation and malaria programmes. Similarly in Zambia we are major donors to the National Strategic Health Plan, which includes a focus on improving child health through expanded vaccination, curative care and improving access to services. In Kenya we are supporting a sector wide approach for the long term strengthening of the health system and improved service delivery. We have funded the development of a number of plans in human resources, procurement and financial management. We are also concentrating much support on the prevention of malaria, the major cause of mortality in children in Kenya. By the end of 2007 we will have spent more than £45 million on insecticide treated bednets and distributed 11 million nets, saving approximately 167,000 lives. DFID is indirectly supporting South Africa's efforts to reverse under-five mortality rates through the £30 million, five-year HIV/AIDS Multi-Sectoral Support Programme (MSP). Our support to the Maternal Child and Women Health Unit in the Department of Health supports research in the area of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), the development of fertility options policy, and research on barriers to antiretroviral uptake among children and pregnant women.

DFID continues to provide strong support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria (GFATM), and also played a central role in the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm) which issued its first bonds in November 2006. This will disburse $4 billion over the next 10 years and is estimated will save 10 million lives, including five million children before 2015. DFID also recently pledged long term support to UNITAID, the International Drug Purchase Facility, starting with a £15 million contribution in 2007, to ensure poor countries benefit from lower prices for drugs to treat AIDS, TB and malaria.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in making cheaper HIV/Aids drugs available to developing nations. [137465]

Mr. Thomas: There has been progress in driving down the prices of HIV/AIDS drugs in a number of ways. Competition between multiple producers is leading to significant falls in the prices of some first-line Antiretrovirals (ARVs). The work of UNITAID, trade measures, research and improved transparency around pricing in developing countries, are also combining to bring down prices and improve access.

DFID is supporting UNITAID, the international drug purchasing facility established in late 2006. UNITAID has already approved several significant expenditures, including $61.7 million for paediatric anti-retroviral therapy (ART), $70 million for second line ART and $52.5m for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. We hope that UNITAID will contribute to the necessary reductions in the prices of second-line drugs such as Viread and Kaletra.

UNITAID and the Clinton Foundation recently announced a major cut in the price of 16 ARV formulations which will be available to 66 developing countries. UNITAID has committed over $120 million in 2007 and 2008 to this programme, and the Clinton Foundation has negotiated price reductions on average between 25 per cent. and 50 per cent.

DFID and other Whitehall Departments have worked with the EU and World Trade Organisation (WTO) member states, to ensure that developing countries have the necessary flexibilities in the WTO Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement to safeguard their pressing public health needs. TRIPS now allows countries without manufacturing capacity to issue compulsory licences to import generic copies of patented medicines. The EU is taking steps to implement legislation transposing this agreement into European law. We have funded several programmes including pilot projects in Kenya and Botswana to help them implement legislation allowing them to use TRIPS flexibilities.

The UK is also involved with others in research, largely through public private partnerships including the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), and recently launched an international Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA) to focus on price, quality and availability of medicines across the supply chain in-country. MeTA builds on the existing efforts of

developing country, donor, World Health Organisation, other multilateral and civil society partners to strengthen national procurement and supply systems, and to tackle corruption.

Middle East: Economic Situation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve economic conditions in the Middle East. [137467]

Hilary Benn: DFID is helping to improve the economic conditions in the Middle East in a number of ways:

We are supporting the Iraqi Government in their economic reform efforts through a £13 million programme, providing technical advice on fiscal (including budget management and public financial management) and macroeconomic policy.

We are providing £15 million to the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The TIM and other international assistance has helped to slow economic decline. The World Bank has highlighted the restrictions on movement and access of Palestinians as the biggest economic constraint, and the UK Government have made our concerns clear to the Israeli Government on this.

As part of our Yemen programme of £12 million this year, we are investigating various ways in which we can support growth and jobs for poor people. We also focus on improving the efficiency of Government. We are supporting the Ministry of Finance to implement National Public Financial Management Reform. This includes support to budget development and management, procurement reform and auditing. Currently we have £1.1 million committed (2006-08) to this multi-donor Government programme, and are looking to expand over 2008-11 if opportunities to build on progress exist. At community level, the Social Fund for Development (SFD) is supporting small and micro enterprise development throughout the country to which DFID is providing approximately £800,000. DFID has over the past couple of years worked with the Government and other donors to harmonize donor assistance in Yemen in order to make it as effective as possible.

At regional level, DFID supports economic reform across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region through contributions to the EC European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) which will provide €5.6 billion (approximately £3.8 billion) for 17 MENA and eastern European countries from 2007-10. Approximately €1 billion (approximately £0.6 billion) of this will come from DFID's budget. The ENPI is designed to promote good governance and equitable social and economic development.

DFID also directly supports the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and partnership (FEMIP) which has loaned €2 billion (approximately £1.4 billion) to MENA countries to help them meet the challenges of economic and social modernisation and improve regional integration. DFID has provided €3 million (approximately £2 million) in grants to a technical trust fund which helps to ensure the FEMIP lending is effective.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria his Department use to evaluate the impact of UK aid. [137466]

Mr. Thomas: All DFID evaluations, which are carried out independently, follow the standard international approach by reporting against the evaluation criteria of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), comprising relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

Further information can be found on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/performance/files/guidance-evaluation.pdf

and on the OECD-DAC website at:

www.oecd.org/dac/guidelines.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Government of Uganda on talks with the Lord's Resistance Army. [137569]

Hilary Benn: I last met with President Museveni on 20 November 2006. During this meeting we discussed northern Uganda and President Museveni updated me on the peace talks that are taking place in Juba between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army.

DFID and Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff hold regular discussions with the Government of Uganda on a range of issues that include the talks with the Lord's Resistance Army. Most recently the British high commissioner to Uganda and the Head of the DFID Office in Uganda met with President Museveni on 10 May 2007. He reconfirmed his support for the Juba peace process. In all of our discussions with the Government of Uganda on northern Uganda we emphasise the importance of dialogue as essential to resolving the conflict. The UK has provided £250,000 to a UN fund set up to support the talks and we have made it clear that we will do more if necessary.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of how many Acholi people *(a)* died, *(b)* were murdered and *(c)* were raped in each of the last five years. [137568]

Hilary Benn: Accurate data on the number of Acholi people who have been murdered are not available, although UN reports do suggest that incidents of violence in the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) affecting parts of northern Uganda have fallen dramatically since peace talks between the LRA and the Government of Uganda began in July 2006.

Accurate data on the number of Acholi people who have been raped are also not available. Many women and girls do not come forward and say that they have been raped because of the stigma involved, and the practical problems associated with reporting such incidents. However the risk of sexual and gender based violence is high. As part of our humanitarian assistance, DFID has provided approximately £2 million to UNICEF and Save the Children over the last two financial years for their programmes to protect women and children in the North. Communities have also stressed the importance of a police presence in tackling issues of sexual and gender based violence. In response we are providing £700,000 from the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool funds in support of a plan to strengthen civilian policing in the North.

DFID is working closely with the Government of Uganda and others to support the collection of accurate information in conflict-affected areas of northern Uganda, to fully understand the impact of the conflict, and to ensure that humanitarian assistance is targeted towards the greatest needs.

In July 2005 DFID supported a Uganda Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation led survey that measured crude mortality rates in northern Uganda. This found that the crude mortality rate in northern Uganda was 1.54 deaths per 10,000 people per day. A crude mortality rate of over 1.0 per 10,000 a day is considered an emergency. As a direct response we have provided over £37 million in humanitarian assistance over the last two years, including £9.6 million in support of a UN programme aimed at tackling some of the main causes of death, including malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory tract infection. There is strong anecdotal evidence that mortality has fallen but a repeat survey will be carried out before the end of the year to check that this is the case.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Correspondence

Susan Kramer: To ask the Leader of the House when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Richmond Park of 5 March 2007 on behalf of her constituent Mr GP Knight (reference PT/050307/KNIGHTGP). [136568]

Mr. Straw: My office had no record of having received the hon. Member's letter dated 5 March 2007 before it was brought to my attention. I have today replied to the letter. If such a situation arises in the future the hon. Member might want to phone my office in the first instance.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Official Hospitality,

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1440W, on Departments: official hospitality, if he will provide a breakdown by main categories of expenditure of the money spent on official hospitality by the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister in 2006-07. [136272]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Home Information Packs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to introduce home information packs in Northern Ireland. [136063]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Finance

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much local authorities spent on *(a)* arts organisations and *(b)* other arts related activities in each year since 1997. [137498]

Mr. Lammy: The Government do not collect information on local authority spending on arts organisations and arts related activities specifically. The Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn returns show the following information for England..

£

	Arts development and support	*Theatre and public entertainment*	*Arts development support theatres and public entertainment*	*Arts activities and facilities*	*Total*
2005-06	118,496	142,604	—	—	261,100
2004-05	121,042	105,896	—	—	226,938
2003-04	—	—	224,616	—	224,616
2002-03	—	—	—	188,933	188,933
2001-02	—	—	—	187,072	187,072
2000-01	—	—	—	174,483	174,483
1999-2000	—	—	—	141,525	141,525
1998-99	—	—	—	89,413	89,413
1997-98	—	—	—	—	—

Arts: Innovation

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to promote entrepreneurship in the creative industries. [137559]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 16 May 2007]*: DCMS supported the Entrepreneurship Task Group which considered how to promote the development of entrepreneurial skills amongst creative industries graduates. The group's recommendations have been taken forward by the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship.

The Department also sponsors the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA), which through its programmes aims to support the next generation of creative innovators and those at the early stages of their creative careers.

Issues around entrepreneurship in the creative industries will be highlighted in the Creative Economy Programme Green Paper, due for publication shortly.

Culture and Creativity Advisory Forum

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the estimated annual running costs are of the Culture and Creativity Advisory Forum. [137496]

Mr. Lammy: There are no running costs of the Culture and Creativity Advisory Forum other than those of staff time within the Department and refreshments, both paid for within DCMS's revenue budget.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* salary and *(b)* financial package is for a creative programmer; and what the budget is of each regional creative programme. [137497]

Mr. Lammy: Each Creative Programmer post will attract a salary of around £40,000. The precise financial package will take account of the full costs of employment. This is a matter for each of the Regional Cultural Consortiums who will employ the Creative Programmers and will be responsible for agreeing salaries with successful candidates.

Creative Programmers will work closely with national and regional partners to advise the cultural sector in the region on possible sources of public and private funding to support cultural projects as part of the Cultural Olympiad.

Film

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made with the MOT for film policy announced by the Minister for Culture in a speech to the Institute for Public Policy Research on 15 June 2005. [137491]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS is working closely with its strategic agency, the UK Film Council, to create a sustainable and successful film industry. The MOT for film policy was a document which suggested possible additional ways of doing this. The UK Film Council has recently launched its three year corporate plan for 2007-10, after extensive consultation. This plan incorporates many of the initiatives from the MOT, including a new Market Testing Fund, a Film Festivals Fund, and a Film Digitisation and Marketing Fund.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department will take to ensure that the principles enshrined in the 2012 Construction Commitments will be upheld in the awarding of construction contracts in the Olympic project. [137359]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic Delivery Authority and partners are committed to promoting the 2012 Construction Commitments developed by the Strategic Forum for Construction, and this is clearly set out in its procurement policy.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the proportion of construction projects for the Olympic and Paralympic Games which are likely to be awarded to local construction firms. [137360]

Mr. Caborn: In accordance with EU procurement regulation, no preference can be given to British companies. Contracts will be awarded to those judged to be the best suppliers and service providers. However, we are committed to ensuring that UK companies are well placed to compete successfully for Games related contracts, and the DTI is mobilising its full range of business support tools to help achieve this.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) publishes details of all contract opportunities on the business section of the London 2012 website at:

www.london2012.org

which also includes advance notice of future opportunities. Alongside this, the business opportunities network that is currently being developed will act as a conduit for information about procurement opportunities and supply chains within the London 2012 project. It will also allow business support organisations to communicate with and offer support to businesses in their area.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the contribution of specialist contractors to the construction projects involved in the Olympic and Paralympic Games; and what representations she has received on the involvement of specialist contractors. [137361]

Mr. Caborn: The construction of the Olympic Park, including the packaging and procurement of contracts, is the responsibility of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). Building the Olympic Park will require the contribution of a wide range of contractors, including specialist contractors. In order to keep potential suppliers updated of developments in the letting of contracts the ODA has organised a series of Industry Days, focusing on different aspects of the construction

work, which are designed to both consult with key stakeholders within the industry on how contracts could be packaged and to keep them abreast of the procurement process.

In accordance with the ODA's procurement policy and in the interests of maintaining fair and open competition, companies making representations directly to the ODA and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are redirected to the business section of the London 2012 website:

www.london2012.com/business

where they can register to receive updates about the Industry Days and developments in the procurement of contracts. This service is open to all businesses throughout the UK.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the membership is of the *(a)* Olympic Board Steering group, *(b)* Olympic Programme Support Unit and *(c)* working level network of Olympic co-ordinators; what position is held by each; what expenses each has incurred; and on what dates each has attended meetings. [137492]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic Board Steering Group consists of senior representatives of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Communities and Local Government (CLG), the London Organising Committee for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), the Greater London Authority (GLA), the British Olympic Association (BOA), the British Paralympic Association (BPA), the Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD) and the Olympic Programme Support Unit (OPSU). This group meets on a monthly basis.

The Olympic Co-ordinators group consists of representatives of Government Departments, the Devolved Administrations, the lead Regional Development Agency and lead Government Office for DCMS. Representatives of the GLA, ODA, LOCOG and OPSU also attend these meetings. This group meets on a quarterly basis.

Any travel and subsistence expenses that arise in relation to attendance at these meetings are the responsibility of the individual organisations and not these groups.

The Olympic Programme Support Unit is not a decision-making body with any specific representative membership. It is a small unit based within DCMS that provides a secretariat for the Olympic Board and independently monitors progress against the Olympic Programme as a whole.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which categories of projects will be entitled to money from the 2012 Cultural Olympiad, UK Wide Cultural Festival. [137495]

Mr. Lammy: We have plans for a wide range of exciting and innovative projects to be part of the Cultural Olympiad. These projects will all: celebrate London and the UK welcoming the world; inspire and involve young people; and generate a positive legacy. The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will shortly announce how cultural organisations can be involved in the Cultural Olympiad, including the UK-wide Cultural Festival.

Sports: Children

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date her Department agreed the target of offering all children at least four hours of sport a week by 2010. [136988]

Mr. Caborn: In December 2004 the Prime Minister announced the Government's long term ambition to offer at least four hours of sport every week by 2010 to all pupils in schools in England.

Tote

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1833W, on the Tote, what discussions her Department has had with personnel from HM Treasury on the future of the Tote. [136870]

Mr. Caborn: Officials regularly attend meetings as part of the process of policy development It is not normal practice of Government to disclose details of, or attendance at, such meetings. The Government remain in discussion with the consortium of racing interests and the staff and management of the Tote that has submitted an offer for the Tote's businesses.

WALES

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Office held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136864]

Mr. Hain: There have been no official meetings held with Sovereign Strategy.

TREASURY

Business: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the stock was of VAT registered businesses per 10,000 adults in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in each year since 1996. [137109]

John Healey: The information is set out in the table.

	Stock of VAT registered Businesses	*Adults*	*Stock of VAT registered businesses per 10,000 adults*
1996	5,569	226,073	246.3
1997	5,601	223,937	250.1
1998	5,671	221,186	256.4
1999	5,477	219,667	249.3
2000	5,372	217,488	247.0

	Stock of VAT registered Businesses	Adults	Stock of VAT registered businesses per 10,000 adults
2001	5,463	216,911	251.9
2002	5,411	217,440	248.9
2003	5,442	218,792	248.7
2004	5,573	222,140	250.9
2005	5,669	229,254	247.3
2006	5,769	[1]	[1]

[1] Not available yet

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department has made an estimate of the cost of a schools-based vaccination programme for the human papillomavirus vaccine; [137740]

(2) what funds have been allocated for a schools-based vaccination programme for the human papillomavirus vaccine. [137741]

Mr. Timms: All decisions on the funding of health programmes beyond 2007-08 will be made in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what role the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit will play in the 2007 comprehensive spending review; [137044]

(2) in which *(a)* policy areas and *(b)* projects his Department (i) is receiving support or advice from the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and (ii) has received support or advice over the last 12 months. [137066]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on 9 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 286W.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 982W, on Departments: official hospitality, whether his Department creates a record for security purposes of those visiting his Department's building at 1 Horse Guards Parade. [137043]

John Healey: The Treasury does not comment on security matters.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136851]

John Healey: There is no record of any meetings between the Treasury and Sovereign Strategy.

Elections: Conduct

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has received from Equifax on the conduct of elections. [137189]

John Healey: None.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department made an assessment of the potential for fiscal incentives to contribute to the promotion of responsible drinking prior to the 2007 Budget. [137202]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer he was given on 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 866W.

Gift Aid

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the cost was to the public purse of administering Gift Aid in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; [137009]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to UK charities of administering Gift Aid claim returns in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [137010]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* Gift Aid is one of a number of charitable reliefs and activities administered by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). HMRC does not distinguish the costs of processing Gift Aid from its other activities in relation to charities and charitable giving and does not have information available to identify the cost of processing Gift Aid by charities.

However, the HMRC Charities business stream brings together most policy, technical and operational work in relation to charities for both direct and indirect taxes. The total operational cost of this business stream was £3,342,594 (2005-06) and £3,690,339 (2006-07). These figures include the paybill costs of staff, but exclude departmental overheads such as accommodation.

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 19 March from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare, on the child tax credit system. [137375]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Paymaster General will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Spelthorne dated 26 February about a constituent's tax credits problem (Treasury reference PO REF: 4/29817/2007). [137502]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Migration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of future net migration for the purpose of determining a long-term trend economic growth rate. [137277]

John Healey: HM Treasury's latest projection of migration and its contribution to trend growth are set out in "Trend Growth: new evidence and prospects", published alongside the 2006 Pre Budget Report (CM 6984).

Office of Government Commerce: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time and *(c)* external staff the Office of Government Commerce employed in each of the last five years. [136999]

John Healey: The information is given in the table:

	Full-time	*Part-time*
April 2007	285	10
April 2006	420	10
April 2005	435	15
April 2004	370	10
April 2003	370	20

Pensions

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effect on costs arising from arranging for the pension policies held with different employers of one individual to be dealt with by a single tax office. [137637]

Ed Balls: HMRC have no plans to bring together how they deal with employer and occupational pension records into a single office. No work has been done to identify the costs or the impact on the handling of pension policies.

However, in 2008 HMRC will bring together individual's PAYE records, both employment and pension records, onto a single database to improve the standards of customer service and deliver cost efficiencies throughout the department.

Public Sector Net Cash Requirement

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* total amount and *(b)* percentage of GDP was of public sector net debt for the UK in each year since 1996. [137124]

John Healey: These public sector net debt series are published monthly in tables A7 and A8 of the Public Finances Databank, the latest version of which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending statistics/pubsec_finance/psf_statistics.cfm

Research and Development Tax Credit

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of tax relief wrongly claimed under the Research and Development Tax Credit Scheme; and whether he has set up a special unit to investigate abuses of the Scheme. [137048]

John Healey: Since the introduction of the relief in April 2000 no companies have been convicted of making fraudulent claims to relief.

HMRC adopts a risk-based approach to the interventions it undertakes. As with other elements of companies' tax returns and computations, claims for R and D tax credits are subject to risk assessment procedures. Where significant risks are identified they are pursued through a variety of interventions one of which involves opening an inquiry into the company tax return or claim.

In response to consultation HMRC opened seven specialist R and D units in November 2006. The units will improve the consistency of dealing with claims and their role is to encourage and help companies to make claims to R and D relief while ensuring that any instances of non-compliance are effectively and efficiently handled.

Taxation: Emergency Services

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 189-90W, on taxation: emergency services, what his Department's policy is on the treatment for tax purposes of the use of emergency vehicles between home and workplace which may also be used for private journeys. [137002]

John Healey: The statutory exemption that removes the tax charge that would otherwise arise where members of the fire, police, ambulance and paramedic services take their vehicles home, applies where the individual driving the emergency vehicle is on call or engaged in on call commuting. If the vehicle can be used for private journeys at any other time, a tax charge will apply if it is used for such journeys, including journeys between home and workplace.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* underpayment and *(b)* overpayment there has been of (i) pension credit, (ii) working tax credit and (iii) child tax credit in each year since their introduction. [136404]

Mr. Timms: Pension credit was introduced in 2003. It is designed to ensure that no pensioner falls below a minimum level of weekly income, and also rewards those who have saved for their retirement.

The amount of pension credit estimated as overpaid in each year due to fraud, customer error and official error is published as National Statistics. The amount estimated as overpaid in each year since the introduction of pension credit is shown in the table, together with the percentage of pension credit expenditure for the relevant period.

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage
Overpayments	270	5.4	280	4.6	270	4.1
Underpayments	85	1.7	121	2.0	100	1.6

Figures for 2003-04 are available only for a combination of pension credit and the minimum income guarantee (the system which pension credit replaced).

Child and working tax credits is a flexible system which responds to changes in family circumstances. Therefore, overpayments and underpayments are part of the system and can be caused by income rises from one year to the next, families overstating the extent to which income has fallen, delays in reporting changes in family's circumstances, and provisional payments made at the start of the year which are based on out-of-date information. They are not therefore, comparable with over and underpayment arising from the pension credit.

Estimates of the number of families with tax credits awards in 2003-04 and 2004-05, including information on overpayments and underpayments (based on finalised family circumstances and incomes for 2003-04 and 2004-05) are available in the publication: "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Awards 2004-05. Supplement on payments in 2004-05". This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-payments-0405.pdf

We do not produce statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit. Figures for 2005-06 are due to be published on 22 May 2007.

SCOTLAND

Local Government: Elections

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many spoiled ballots there were in the local authority elections held in Scotland on 3rd May. [137567]

David Cairns: The conduct of local authority elections in Scotland is devolved to the Scottish Executive.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish carbon dioxide milestones that can be used in conjunction with the standard assessment procedure and the planning process to ensure that appropriate building services and local renewables are specified. [135863]

Angela E. Smith: The Government have proposed changes to building regulations energy efficiency requirements so that by 2016 all new homes will need to be zero carbon as calculated by the Standard Assessment Procedure. The Government have also proposed interim milestones so that in 2010 and 2013, building regulations energy efficiency standards will be 25 per cent. and 44 per cent. higher respectively, compared with 2006.

The Government's draft Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change has set out the need for development plan documents to set policies on the provision of low carbon and renewable sources of energy to provide the platform necessary for complementing the increasingly high levels of energy efficiency standards required by Building Regulations.

The proposed changes to building regulations together with the draft Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change will create opportunities for the use of appropriate building services and local renewables.

Departments: Official Engagements

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the diary engagements were for each member of her ministerial team for 23 April. [136840]

Angela E. Smith: For 23 April diary engagements for each member of the ministerial team were as follows:

	Engagement
Ruth Kelly	Internal meetings only.
Phil Woolas	Internal meetings, a presentation from REACH, and a meeting with UNISON to discuss RSG issues.
Yvette Cooper	Internal meetings and a speech to 9th Hertfordshire Housing Conference.
Meg Munn	Opened exhibition in Bristol to mark bicentenary of abolition of the slave trade.
Angela Smith	Internal meetings and discussion with National School of Government regarding staff development strategy.
Baroness Andrews	Internal meetings and discussion with Patrick Hall MP regarding Milton Keynes

We do not release details of internal discussions as this would prejudice the frank exchanges of views between Ministers and officials which are necessary to policy development.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* houses and *(b)* flats built in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2005 and (iv) 2006 were found subsequently to have significant building defects; and if she will make a statement. [136727]

Angela E. Smith: The construction of all new dwellings is subject to building control but as this is a fully devolved service under the Building Act 1984, no central records are kept of contraventions of building regulations.

Non compliance with building regulations may result in the withholding of completion or final certificates, and possibly formal enforcement action by the local authority for more serious breaches. In addition, the vast majority of new dwellings are covered by home warranties which provide mechanisms for defects to be remedied. Officials work closely with warranty providers to ensure that these are effective.

India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Ministers in her Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135543]

Angela E. Smith: No Communities and Local Government Ministers have visited India in the last 12 months.

This Government publishes an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Local Government Finance: Elderly

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to change the formula for grant allocation to local councils for older people to reflect changes in the numbers of elderly people aged over 75 years and their increased social care needs. [134851]

Mr. Woolas: We tested a wide range of indicators of social service need, including those relating to age and health, when developing the current formula. As a result, I am satisfied that the variables in the older people's formula adequately reflect relative social service need in different types of authority.

The new formula is calculated using data on the number of people aged 65 and over resident in each area, and pensioners living alone, in receipt of pension credit and attendance allowance, pensioners who live in rented accommodation and those aged 90 and over in each area.

We do expect to update the data we use in the relative needs formulae for the 2008-09 settlement, where possible. This will ensure that the calculations reflect changes in demographic and other trends in each local authority.

TRANSPORT

Lorry Drivers: Standards

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements are in place to ensure that HGV drivers from *(a)* European Union member states and *(b)* other foreign jurisdictions meet the driving standards required of British HGV drivers. [136832]

Dr. Ladyman: The UK recognises driving licences issued by all other European Union (EU) member states, including HGV entitlement. As European Council Directive 91/439/EEC prescribes a minimum standard for health and driver testing (including HGV tests), it is presumed that HGV drivers from other EU states will have the same conditions applied to their driving standards.

Non-EU licence holders who are resident here may only drive vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes (motorcycles, cars and light vans). Visitors may drive larger vehicles only if the vehicles were registered outside Great Britain and have been driven into the country temporarily. While driving on British roads they are subject to the same road traffic laws as British HGV drivers.

Enforcement of road traffic law is a matter for individual chief officers of police.

Railways: Aviation

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated in the last five years on the potential effect of high-speed rail on demand for air travel; and what plans it has to commission further research. [137566]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government made a manifesto commitment to look at the feasibility and affordability of a new north-south high-speed link. The Department has committed to take this forward in the development of a long-term strategy for the railways.

In so doing the Department will draw on a range of evidence and commissioned work, including Sir Rod Eddington's advice on the long-term impact of transport decisions on the UK's productivity, stability and growth. The Department will release the evidence alongside our conclusions as part of the long-term strategy for the railways to be published in summer 2007.

Railways: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fixed penalty notices and *(b)* court summonses were issued by rail companies in the London area to passengers in the last 12 months. [137115]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not collate this information, as the prosecution of individuals is a matter for the train operators concerned, the British Transport police and the courts.

Roads: Construction

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library the most recent appraisal summary table for each road scheme in the Local Transport Programme. [124189]

Gillian Merron: I have arranged for the most recent appraisal summary table for each local major road schemes granted programme entry or subsequent approval through the local transport programme to be placed in the in the House Library.

Shipping: Radioactive Materials

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the required response time is in the event of an *(a)* incident and *(b)* terrorist attack involving a transport ship carrying plutonium-based MOX fuel in European Union waters. [137554]

Dr. Ladyman: Ships carrying MOX fuel are required to have a shipboard emergency plan which would be activated immediately in the event that an incident occurred. Emergency support is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

An immediate response to a terrorist attack would be provided by the onboard escort team, comprising authorised firearms officers of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether alcohol consumption is permitted on the vessels used by PNTL and NDA to transport plutonium-based MOX fuels from Sellafield to *(a)* other EU Members States and *(b)* Japan. [137556]

Dr. Ladyman: All crew members on board PNTL and NDA vessels are limited, regardless of destination, to an alcohol level of half the UK legal limit for driving. This is more restrictive than the legal limits for alcohol for professional mariners.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account is taken of whether a ship in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority nuclear transport fleet possesses the best available technology when decisions are being taken on which ship will undertake shipments of MOX plutonium-based nuclear fuel in European Union waters. [137658]

Dr. Ladyman: Ships used to transport MOX fuel are classified as INF class 2 or 3. These ships are designed and built to the highest standards and are certified according to national and international agreements.

The choice of particular ship is a matter for the operator.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of requiring an escort for transport ships used to transport plutonium-based MOX fuel in European Union waters. [137659]

Dr. Ladyman: All shipments of MOX fuel in UK flagged vessels are escorted by members of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary's (CNC) Marine Escort Group, comprising authorised firearms officers who have been trained to a high standard by the Royal Navy.

Ships flagged to other nations may also transport MOX fuel. Approval of arrangements for such movements are the responsibility of that State's competent authorities.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what safety tests have been conducted on the type B flasks used for carrying plutonium-based MOX fuel on their ability to withstand explosions. [137660]

Dr. Ladyman: Packages for the transport of radioactive material must meet the stringent standards developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Type B packages for the transport of large quantities of radioactive material must undergo tests to demonstrate their ability to survive a severe impact followed by a severe fire.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Telephone Services

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of calls were unanswered at the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in the last 12 months; and what targets the agency sets for response times to calls. [137330]

Dr. Ladyman: The VOSA enquiry unit operates a system that fields calls to appropriately trained staff. During the last 12 months 189,262 customers have terminated their call before being put through to enquiry unit staff. This represents 24.8 per cent. of the total calls received.

To meet the recent increase in demand on the enquiry unit, VOSA have employed 10 additional staff and implemented a call monitoring system. VOSA anticipate a reduction in unanswered calls to meet industry standards by the end of June 2007.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Uganda

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution the UK Government made to the military capacity of the Government of Uganda in each of the last five years. [137644]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 15 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2297-98W, to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) which provides details of military training provided to the Ugandan People's Defence Force up to March 2006.

Over the last year, a number of training activities intended to further improve the professionalism of Ugandan soldiers have been taking place. These have included attendance at the Royal College of Defence Studies, the commissioning course at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and the Royal Engineers troop commanders and Explosive Ordnance Disposal

courses. Briefing programmes have been delivered on peace support operations, border security and management and collective training. A similar programme will be delivered over the coming year, with an increasing emphasis on supporting Uganda's contribution to the embryonic African Standby Force regional standby brigade.

In addition, the Security Sector Development Advisory Team has, since 2002, been assisting Uganda to enhance good governance in defence by more effective management and policy direction. This programme, funded by the Department for International Development, has included assisting in producing a White Paper on Defence Transformation and support to development of a Defence Corporate Plan. Current engagement is directed towards support on improving governance of logistics resources.

Army: Greater London

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the running costs were of the house provided by his Department to the General Officer Commanding London District in the last 12 months. [137441]

Derek Twigg: The following table provides the information for 2005-06, the most recent full year for which data is available.

	Amount (£)
Rent	15,443
Utilities	6,412.13
Maintenance	4,701.76
Staff	112,508.69
Total	139,065.58

All service personnel living in service accommodation pay charges appropriate to the size and condition of the property they occupy. This is deducted at source from their salary.

Army: Official Cars

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any official cars used by senior members of the Army have been damaged in the last two years. [137132]

Derek Twigg: Over the last two years there have been 75 accidents recorded that can be attributed to vehicles being driven by senior Army officers (Lt. Col. and above). It is, however, impossible to tell from the MOD's traffic accident reporting system the severity of the accident or whether any damage resulted to the vehicle. As incidents are recorded by driver name, senior officers who may have been involved as passengers are not identified on the system.

Civil Contingency Reaction Forces

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Civil Contingency Reaction Force; and if he will make a statement. [137917]

Mr. Ingram: The Civil Contingency Reaction Forces have been fully operational since the end of January 2004, and continue to maintain their readiness through a rolling programme of training and exercises with the emergency services that test how they would work together in a crisis. They enhance the armed forces' ability to support the civil police and other bodies, if requested, through their availability to deploy to assist at the scene of an incident or elsewhere, be it terrorist attack, accident or natural disaster.

Conferences

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the 16 April conference chaired by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. [136036]

Derek Twigg: The record of the conference is currently being finalised. I will place a copy in the Library of the House when this work is complete.

Departments: Buildings

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the latest estimate is of the cost of refurbishing his Department's headquarters in London. [136009]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The physical refurbishment of the Department's main building cost £323 million (VAT exclusive) and has delivered a modern and efficient workspace capable of intensive use for the next 20 years and beyond.

Food Supply: Security

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department are involved in strategic contingency planning for the security of United Kingdom food supplies; and in what categories of posts. [137428]

Des Browne: None.

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 925W, on Hercules aircraft, if he will take steps to ensure that Hercules aircraft being fitted with explosive suppressant foam are flown to flex the wings after the sealant is applied but before the foam is put in place. [136695]

Mr. Ingram: The replacement of the fuel tank sealant is only undertaken on the Hercules C-130K aircraft. Flying the aircraft between fuel tank sealant replacement and fitting explosion suppressant foam (ESF) would introduce unacceptable delays to this urgent programme. Therefore, quality assurance processes are used to ensure that it is not necessary to fly the Hercules C-130K aircraft after the fuel tank sealant has been replaced but before ESF is fitted.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 925W, on Hercules aircraft, how long it has taken for each Hercules aircraft being fitted with explosive suppressant foam to return to active service; and if he will make a statement. [136696]

Mr. Ingram: The Hercules C-130K explosion suppressant foam (ESF) modification takes approximately 44 days per aircraft to complete. The less complex Hercules C-130J modification takes approximately 16 days. The difference in time scale between the two marks of aircraft is due to the need to replace the fuel tank sealant on the older C-130K. In order to improve overall aircraft availability to the front line command, the ESF modification has been combined with scheduled maintenance wherever possible.

Land Mines: Bomb Disposal

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what initiatives his Department is undertaking to remove land mines and explosive remnants of war; and if he will make a statement. [136639]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The Ministry of Defence has three initiatives to remove land mines and explosive remnants of war. These three projects are judged to be highly successful: the first involves 98 Explosive Ordnance Disposal and de-mining personnel for the Kosovo Protection Corps. The second is the Bosnian project, which on completion will have destroyed over 10,000 tons of ammunition. And the third is the International Mine Action and Training Centre in Kenya has trained some 3,800 African and International personnel in de-mining and associated skills. Wider initiatives by the UK, funded by DFID at £10 million per year, are targeted at the world's poorest nations, and have reduced casualties significantly.

Lynx Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the decision was taken *(a)* not to fit 15 Hamden Lynx Mk 7 with DAS and *(b)* to install a flare and chaff system instead; [137378]

(2) when the Lynx Mk 7s of 847 NAS were first fitted with a flare system; [137379]

(3) how many Lynx helicopters fitted with infra red jamming devices and electronic counter measures are ready for active service; [137382]

(4) how many of the Lynx helicopter fleet have been fitted with infra red jamming devices and electronic counter measures; and if he will make a statement. [137383]

Mr. Ingram: Defensive Aids can comprise a wide variety of systems, including chaff and flare dispensers, which contribute to the protection of an air platform. We provide our aircraft with a level of protection commensurate with the risk of the operational tasking. This involves a mix of threat mitigation measures, which can include defensive aids.

I am not prepared to disclose specific details of defensive aid fitted, as this might prejudice the operational security of our armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when a requirement to fit Lynx with Defensive Aid Suites was first established. [137380]

Mr. Ingram: Lynx helicopters were first fitted with Defensive Aid Suites in 1987.

Military Aircraft: Crew

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planning total is for qualified fast jet pilots at the end of each of the years 2007 to 2010. [135919]

Mr. Ingram: The following table provides the planning total for Royal Air Force and Royal Navy qualified Fast Jet Pilots for the next four financial years.

Financial year	*Number of pilots*
2007-08	790
2008-09	765
2009-10	760
2010-11	750

Notes:
1. These figures exclude pilots who hold the rank of Wing Commander or above.
2. All figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
3. The RAF element of the figures provided include a manpower training margin to compensate, partially for the loss of productive effort of trained personnel whilst they undergo long periods of training, or for other losses due to such factors as long-term illness, pregnancy or terminal leave.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many suitably qualified fast jet pilots were available for active service at each year end since 2000. [135920]

Mr. Ingram: The following table provides the number of qualified Royal Air Force and Royal Navy fast jet pilots as at 1 April.

	Number
2000	675
2001	655
2002	645
2003	685
2004	690
2005	690
2006	680

Notes:
1. The figures show all fast jet pilots, including those who may be medically downgraded or are in non-flying posts, but excludes pilots who hold the rank of Wing Commander/Commander or above.
2. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
3. Obtaining actual numbers for those pilots who are combat ready would involve a manual trawl of data and could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

RAF Leeming

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the delay in setting up the new communications hub at RAF Leeming; and if he will make a statement. [137224]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 5WS.

Research and Development Costs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 364W, on research and development costs, when he expects to be able to provide the information requested. [130502]

Mr. Ingram: I wrote to the hon. Member today.

Sequestration of Assets: Iran

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1748W, on sequestration of assets: Iran, what options he has considered to ensure *(a)* the return of seized Royal Navy assets and *(b)* compensation from Iran; and if he will make a statement. [136963]

Des Browne: We continue to press the Government of Iran to return the boats and equipment seized illegally.

Territorial Army

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the *(a)* implementation of Additional Duties Commitments and *(b)* creation of Land Information Communication Security Groups (Volunteers), following the laying before the House on 30 April 2007 of Amendment 31 of the Territorial Army Regulations. [137417]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* The Additional Duties Commitment was implemented for members of the Reserve Forces (Army) (Regular Reserve, Regular Army Reserve of Officers and the Volunteer Reserves (Territorial Army)) with effect from the introduction of Amendment 31 of the Territorial Army Regulations and the roll out of Joint Personnel Administration to the Army, in April 2007. An Additional Duties Commitment is formal part-time employment, completing the spectrum of employment between Territorial Army Service that is entirely voluntary at the lowest level (attendance on weekday evenings and weekends) through to full time working on either a Full Time Reserve Service engagement or mobilised service. In recognition of the differing levels of commitment and guarantee of work at any given time, the terms and conditions of service are also graduated.

The LAND Information and Communications Services Group was given formal approval in March 2007. It is a National 'Specialist' Territorial Army unit, recruited from all over the UK. Once fully recruited, it will consist of a mix of suitably qualified Territorial Army personnel, and recently retired regular officers and senior non commissioned officers, and professionally qualified officers (PQOs) with specialist skills obtained from industry which will enhance the Defence Information and Communications Systems capability.

Type 45 Destroyers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has received any expressions of interest from foreign Governments regarding the purchase of Type 45 destroyers. [131770]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has received no formal expressions of interest regarding the purchase of Type 45 destroyers. Information about the Type 45 has, however, been provided to other Governments, when requested.

Typhoon

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2007 to question 134727 on Typhoon, whether consideration *(a)* is being given and *(b)* is likely in future to be given to equipping Typhoon with a functioning cannon. [137054]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* All RAF Typhoons are fitted with a functioning cannon. If operational requirements led us to conclude that the capability provided by the cannon justified bringing it into service, we could do so at relatively short notice.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many learners were undertaking Learning and Skills Council funded *(a)* further education, *(b)* work based learning and *(c)* adult and community learning provision in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) subject area, (ii) age group, (iii) gender and (iv) local education authority. [133720]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* Figures for those participating in further education (FE), work based learning (WBL) and adult and community learning (ACL) provision can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) individualised learner record (ILR). The information requested has been placed in the Library. (Some LA breakdowns could only be provided at disproportionate cost and are therefore not included.)

Children and Adoption Act 2006

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects the provisions relating to parenting in the Children and Adoption Act 2006 to be implemented. [137213]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government expect that provisions in Part 1 of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 in relation to Family Assistance Orders and risk assessments will be implemented from October 2007. This timescale is subject to completion of necessary changes to the court rules, following consideration by the Family Proceedings Rule Committee. Shortly, the Government will be making a written ministerial statement (WMS), outlining the timetable for implementation of the remaining provisions in Part 1 of the Act.

Children: Protection

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what representations he has received on proposals to adopt a child protection approach where a child is involved in gang activity and a younger sibling is at risk of moving into an unsafe lifestyle; [136553]

(2) whether he has plans to address the risk to a younger child in circumstances where an older sibling is involved in gang activity. [136567]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has not received any formal representations. Child protection is a matter for local authorities and their partners. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children requires effective co-ordination in every local area. For this reason, the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). LSCBs came into force on 1 April 2006. Their core membership includes local authorities, health bodies, the police and other key agencies providing services to children and adults. The objectives of LSCBs are to co-ordinate local work and to ensure the effectiveness of the work of member agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Government's statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2006) sets out their roles and responsibilities including their relationship to the wider children's trust arrangements.

This guidance also sets out the processes to be followed if there are concerns about a child's welfare. Firstly, a referral should be made to local authority children's social care and it should decide whether to undertake an initial assessment to establish whether the child is a child in need. If the child is a child in need under s17 of the Children Act 1989, then the LA should decide what services are required to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child and which agency is best placed to provide them.

If there are concerns that a child may be suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, then a multi agency strategy meeting—led by local authority children's social care—should be held to determine whether to undertake inquiries under s47 of the Children Act 1989 and what action is required to safeguard the child's welfare. If a child is at continuing risk of harm, then a child protection plan would be put in place. Children's social care and the police, together with the other services are required to work closely together during these assessment and decision making processes.

These processes are used to protect children from different sorts of harm and are flexible enough to be used in a range of circumstances. The Government will of course continue to keep this framework under review.

Children's Centres

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the project to determine how health visitors can work more closely with children's centres; what funds were made available for the project; and if he will make a statement. [137220]

Beverley Hughes: The Government have committed £7 million in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to pilot the Nurse Family Partnership initiative in 10 sites in England. This nurse-led intensive home visiting programme has been developed, refined and rigorously tested over 30 years in the US and has resulted in impressive outcomes for vulnerable children and mothers. The programme will be delivered on the pilot sites by health visitors and midwives working within integrated services for children and families, linked to Sure Start children's centres.

Evaluation of the pilot will inform the future commissioning of high intensity early intervention and prevention programmes, as part of the progressive universal model of child and family health. Evaluation will also examine short term impacts on maternal and child health and assess the role of practitioners and their skills requirements for such a model of intervention.

City Academies: Admissions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what oversubscription admissions policies are employed by each academy. [128507]

Jim Knight: The oversubscription criteria for an academy are normally contained within its funding agreement, the contract between the Secretary of State and Academy Trust through which an academy is governed. All the funding agreements for open academies are freely available to the public online at the following web address;

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/foischeme/subPage.cfm?action=collections.displayCollection&i_collectionID=190

However, where a number of academies are sponsored by the same individual or organisation, for example ARK or ULT, there may be a master funding agreement for this group, with a series of supplemental agreements setting out the particulars for each separate academy. In such cases, admissions arrangements will be contained within supplemental agreements.

These supplemental agreements are also available at the web address provided above.

All academies are bound by the admissions code, and as such may not select on academic ability in any way, and must prioritise applications from looked after children and those with statements of special educational needs.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135734]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department runs 25 main Government websites (URL domains). In addition the Department operates a number of sub-sites falling under the main domains.

There would be a disproportionate cost to provide the further information requested.

The Department is working towards consolidation of all its websites. Public-facing content is being migrated to Directgov and business content to Businesslink.

Education: Per Capita Costs

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was allocated per capita by his Department to pupils in *(a)* City of London, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley and *(c)* England in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; and what formula was used for such allocations. [123592]

Jim Knight: The per capita allocations for City of London, London borough of Bexley and England in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are set out as follows. Please note that it is wrong to compare funding per pupil in Bexley with City of London as the City of London:

has the highest wage costs in the country;

is the smallest authority in the country so is unable to take advantage of economies of scale; and

draws its pupils from deprived backgrounds.

£

	2005-06 EFS	*2006-07 DSG*
England	3,580	3,642.99
London borough of Bexley	3,510	3,719.15
City of London	5,700	6,708.07

Note:
In 2005-06 local authority funding was based on Education Formula Spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement.
The introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified.

In 2005-06 school funding was part of the local government finance system. School funding was split into four blocks: primary; secondary; under fives; and high-cost pupils. The formula for each block included a basic amount per pupil with an area cost adjustment uplift. The primary, secondary and under five blocks also included an element for pupils with additional educational needs, defined as pupils with: English as an additional language/ethnicity; working families tax credit; and income support. The primary block also had an element to reflect sparsity.

Each local authority's total Dedicated Schools Grant for 2006-07 was calculated by multiplying their full-time equivalent pupil numbers (aged 3-15) from the January 2006 pupil count by their Dedicated Schools Grant Guaranteed Unit of Funding (the Dedicated Schools Grant Guaranteed Unit of Funding is unchanged from that set in

December 2005).

The Dedicated Schools Grant Guaranteed Unit of Funding for 2006-07 was based on spend per pupil in 2005-06, with a basic increase of 5 per cent. per pupil (5.1 per cent. for London authorities) and headroom allocated to reflect five ministerial priorities. £30 million was also distributed between authorities who spent below the level of undamped Schools Formula Sending Share in 2005-06.

Faith Schools: Admissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 254W, on faith schools: admissions, (1) if he will make it his policy to collect information on those faith schools in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England which do not give priority to children of their faith; [137362]

(2) what the evidential basis was for the statement in his recent letter to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak that not all schools with a religious character give priority in admissions to children of their faith. [137363]

Jim Knight: The admission arrangements for maintained schools are consulted on and determined each year by the relevant admission authority. This information is published annually by each local authority for all schools in their area in their composite prospectus for parents. We do not collect this information centrally and have no plans to do so. Through discussions with local authorities, schools and faith providers, we know that practices vary widely and that a number of schools with a religious character do not give priority in admissions to children on the basis of their faith and others offer a proportion of places to children without reference to faith.

Higher Education: Admissions

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many entrants to university undergraduate courses came from Regent's Park and Kensington North in each of the last five years. [137762]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the following tables. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Entrants to undergraduate courses[1] from Regent's Park and Kensington North parliamentary constituency—UK higher education institutions

Academic year	*Number of entrants*
2001/02	1,610
2002/03	1,805
2003/04	1,690
2004/05	1,685

Entrants to undergraduate courses[1] from Regent's Park and Kensington North parliamentary constituency—UK higher education institutions

Academic year	Number of entrants
2005/06	1,640

[1] Covers students on full-time and part-time modes of study.

Note:
Figures are on a HESA standard registration population basis and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Home Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of children who are educated out of school in 2006-07. [137039]

Jim Knight *[Holding answer 16 May 2007]:* Local authorities arrange for education out of school in pupil referral units and other settings. The DFES annual census shows that in January 2006 23,670 pupils were educated in pupil referral units. In addition, a further 12,750 received tuition at home, in community homes, at further education colleges, or with voluntary section providers.

We do not collect information about the number of children whose education is arranged by their parents. A recent study on the prevalence of home education in England, conducted by York Consulting, estimated that there were around 16,000 children being educated at home that were known to the local authority. We have not made any estimate of the number of home educated children that are not known to their local authority.

League Tables

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of 15-year-olds *(a)* took and *(b)* achieved A*-C in at least one course within the entitlement area as defined by section 85A of the Education Act 2002 of (i) arts, (ii) design and technology, (iii) humanities and (iv) modern foreign languages in each year since 1997. [117405]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the tables.

The information for the proportion attempting and gaining grades A*-C at GCSE in modern foreign languages is available only at a disproportionate cost. This is because it would involve calculating how many pupils took and achieved grades A*-C in at least one modern foreign language. The data readily available only consider the number of attempts by all pupils and the number of these to achieve grades A*-C, meaning that there would be double counting for pupils that took more than one modern foreign language GCSE.

Information provided for Design and Technology, Humanities and Art and Design are classified as single subjects and therefore double counting does not apply.

GCSE and equivalent attempts and achievements, 1997 to 2006[1, 2] in England—Number of pupils

	Design and Technology		Humanities		Art and Design		Modern Foreign Languages[3]	
	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Number achieved grades A*-C	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Number achieved grades A*-C	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Number achieved grades A*-C	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Number achieved grades A*-C
1996/97	138,396	63,332	36,067	14,793	194,666	116,178	485,810	248,669
1997/98	375,453	182,193	22,419	9,123	180,735	110,856	491,684	251,385
1998/99	395,155	198,420	20,393	8,586	183,157	117,134	499,451	264,782
1999/00	404,832	206,554	19,393	8,356	178,219	116,373	502,294	265,766
2000/01	416,015	214,539	20,495	8,719	180,627	118,196	517,780	278,722
2001/02	409,414	215,786	20,608	9,126	182,056	121,864	505,649	274,665
2002/03	414,324	222,927	18,856	8,179	186,968	126,132	497,938	260,057
2003/04	408,525	228,126	16,687	7,338	187,504	126,915	481,521	266,343
2004/05	365,559	210,408	14,887	6,643	184,812	128,009	411,318	254,802
2005/06[4]	337,235	199,367	14,409	6,619	186,825	131,740	365,002	242,097

[1] Including attempts and achievements in previous academic years.
[2] Number of pupils on roll aged 15 at the start of the academic year.
[3] Pupils who take more than one language will be double-counted.
[4] Figures for 2005-06 are revised, all other figures are final.

GCSE and equivalent attempts and achievements, 1997 to 2006[1, 2] in England—Proportion of 15-year-olds

	Design and Technology		Humanities		Art and Design		Modern Foreign Languages[3]	
	Number of pupils entered for GCSE as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number achieved grades A*-C as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number of pupils entered for GCSE as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number achieved grades A*-C as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number of pupils entered for GCSE as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number achieved grades A*-C as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number of pupils entered for GCSE as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number achieved grades A*-C as a proportion of all 15-year-olds
1996/97	24	11	6	3	33	20	n/a	n/a
1997/98	65	32	4	2	31	19	n/a	n/a
1998/99	68	34	4	1	32	20	n/a	n/a
1999/00	70	36	3	1	31	20	n/a	n/a
2000/01	69	36	3	1	30	20	n/a	n/a

GCSE and equivalent attempts and achievements, 1997 to 2006[1, 2] in England—Proportion of 15-year-olds

	Design and Technology		Humanities		Art and Design		Modern Foreign Languages[3]	
	Number of pupils entered for GCSE as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number achieved grades A*-C as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number of pupils entered for GCSE as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number achieved grades A*-C as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number of pupils entered for GCSE as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number achieved grades A*-C as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number of pupils entered for GCSE as a proportion of all 15-year-olds	Number achieved grades A*-C as a proportion of all 15-year-olds
2001/02	67	36	3	2	30	20	n/a	n/a
2002/03	67	36	3	1	30	20	n/a	n/a
2003/04	63	35	3	1	29	20	n/a	n/a
2004/05	57	33	2	1	29	20	n/a	n/a
2005/06[4]	52	31	2	1	29	20	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available. Proportion of pupils attempting and gaining GCSEs in Modern Foreign Languages is not available due to double counting.

[1] Including attempts and achievements in previous academic years.

[2] Number of pupils on roll aged 15 at the start of the academic year.

[3] Pupils who take more than one language will be double-counted so the proportion of all 15-year-olds has not been calculated.

[4] Figures for 2005/06 are revised, all other figures are final.

Mandarin

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the difficulty of Mandarin GCSE in comparison with other modern language GCSEs. [137462]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made any assessment of the difficulty of Mandarin in comparison with other modern language GCSEs. However, the Key Stage 3 programme of study for languages sets out statutory modifications to the level descriptors for listening, responding and reading for pupils studying Mandarin and Cantonese. These modifications assume that Mandarin may be spoken at a slower speed, the range of topics may be more limited and pupils may work with a limited number of characters. There are no similar modifications for other languages.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding has been provided for the teaching of Mandarin in schools. [137461]

Jim Knight: We do not promote the teaching of one language over another, and have not provided any specific funding for the teaching of Mandarin in schools. It is for individual schools to decide which languages they offer. However, the Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hanban (Office of the Chinese Language Council International) in July 2006 designed to promote Chinese learning and teaching in English schools and to increase cooperation between the two countries.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with education providers on the teaching of Mandarin in schools. [137463]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has not had any discussions with education providers on the teaching of Mandarin in schools. The Languages Review, published in March 2007, proposed widening the range of languages taught in schools. The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has recently finished consulting on the revised Key Stage 3 languages curriculum. The consultation proposed removing the requirement that schools must first teach a European language to allow them to teach any major spoken world language, including Mandarin, depending on local need and circumstances. We are considering the potential implications of these changes for the school workforce.

Nursery Nurses

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people were employed as nursery nurses in the most recent period for which figures are available; how many unfilled nursery places there were in that period; what the balance was of provision between private and non-private nurseries; and if he will make a statement. [135689]

Beverley Hughes: There are no figures available for the number of nursery nurses employed in the nursery sector. However, the Government's latest survey of nurseries carried out in 2005 (Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2005—Full Day Care Providers) showed that 104,800 paid staff, 80 per cent. of all paid staff, working in children's nurseries in England had a qualification relevant to working with children and young people.

The 2005 Childcare and Early Year Providers Survey also estimated that in summer 2005 there were approximately 88,400 vacant full day care places in England, 17 per cent. of all places; and that 60 per cent. of full day care provision in England was privately owned, with the remaining 40 per cent. split across the voluntary, local authority, school and other sectors.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what proportion of the money allocated to local authorities to provide the nursery education grant was passed to nursery providers in the latest period for which figures are available; [137215]

(2) for what reasons nursery providers in different local authorities do not receive a uniform amount for the nursery education grant per child. [137216]

Beverley Hughes: Nursery education grant was phased out in 2001/02. Funding for the free entitlement to early education for three and four-year-olds is provided through general school funding.

Estimated expenditure on under fives by local authorities in 2005-06, the latest year for which outturn data is available, is £3,473 million.

Local authorities—in consultation with their School Forums—are responsible for deciding how best to apply their total school and early years funding across all age groups and between different types of provider, based on an assessment of local circumstances. Therefore it is a matter for each local authority to determine the levels of funding for providers in their area. The 2006 Code of Practice on the provision of free nursery education places for three and four-year-olds makes clear that local authorities should fund providers equitably, fairly and transparently.

The Schools, Early Years and 14-16 Funding consultation which ends on 1 June sets out a number of proposals for changes to the way the early years funding system operates and can be accessed at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations

Schools: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding has been allocated for each One School Pathfinder Project; when he expects each project to be completed; and when the decision was made on each allocation. [127650]

Jim Knight: The following table shows funding allocations for each BSF One School Pathfinder project. Funding for phase one projects was initially approved in May 2006. Funding for phase two projects was initially approved in January 2007. Phase one projects were given an ambitious target of completion in September 2008, and phase two by September 2009. The following dates indicate our latest information on when new facilities will be open at each school.

Phase 1 projects	*Name of school*	*Current estimated opening date*	*Funding (£ million)*
Barnet	East Barnet school	September 2009	25.5
Bexley	New school	September 2010	23.8
Cornwall	Penryn college	September 2008	22
Devon	Bideford college	December 2009	31.7
Dorset	Queen Elizabeth's CE VC school	April 2009	28.4
Gloucestershire	Rednock school	July 2009	27.2
Kingston-upon-Thames	Chessington community college	April 2008	23
Leicestershire	King Edward VII school plus sixth form	September 2009	24.1
North Yorkshire	Richmond school	September 2009	29.6
Richmond-upon-Thames	Teddington school	September 2009	30.0
Torbay	Torquay community college	March 2009	22.2
Warrington	Culcheth high school	September 2009	21.7
Wiltshire	George Ward school	September 2009	25.1
Phase 2 projects			
Bath and North East Somerset	Writhlington school	April 2010	25.5
Bracknell Forest	Garth Hill college	September 2009	33.2
Bromley	Langley Park school	September 2009	34.2
Buckinghamshire	Cressex community school	September 2009	30.5
East Sussex	Bexhill high school	September 2010	33.1
Harrow	Whitmore high school	September 2009	31.5
Herefordshire	The Minster college	December 2009	21.2
Isle of Wight	Cowes high school	September 2010	30.5
North Somerset	Nailsea community school	January 2010	28.8
Plymouth	Estover community college	September 2009	26.5
Redbridge	Loxford school of science and technology	September 2009	38.6
Rutland	Vale of Catmose college	September 2009	17.4
Sefton	Litherland high school	April 2010	22.3
Shropshire	William Brookes school	September 2009	19.8
South Gloucestershire	Filton high school	September 2010	25.4
Southend-on-Sea	Belfairs high school	September 2009	25.1
Sutton	Stanley Park high school	September 2009	32.9
Trafford	St. Ambrose college	September 2009	20.7
West Berkshire	St. Bartholomew's school	September 2009	31.6
West Sussex	Bognor Regis community college	September 2009	35.9
Wigan	Abraham Guest high school	September 2009	18.1
Windsor & Maidenhead	Holyport Manor special school	September 2009	23.6
Wirral	Woodchurch high school	September 2010	25.2
Wokingham	Waingels college	September 2010	29.1
York	Joseph Rowntree school	September 2009	25.4

Schools: Playing Fields

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many disposals of school playing fields of areas of land greater than 0.2 hectares were proposed in each of the last 10 years; [137499]

(2) how many general consents have been approved since the School Playing Fields Advisory Panel was set up; and under what conditions and circumstances general consents are approved for school playing fields; [137500]

(3) what average area in hectares of playing fields is owned by *(a)* all schools, *(b)* academies, *(c)* specialist schools and *(d)* specialist sports schools; [137501]

(4) how many of the planning applications for development of school playing fields were for improvements to the facilities in each of the last 10 years; [137503]

(5) how many *(a)* applications to develop and *(b)* developments there have been of school playing fields in the last 10 years; and what the area in hectares was of each; [137504]

(6) how many applications for development on school playing fields have been made in the last 10 years, broken down by region. [137505]

Jim Knight: In the last 10 years the Department has received a total of 248 applications (109 of which in respect of closed schools) that involve the disposal of an area of land capable of forming a sports pitch of at least 0.2 hectares. Of the total received, 54 must be subsequently withdrawn, 16 are still under consideration, 176 have been approved and two were rejected. Of the approved applications, the sale proceeds were used to provide new or improved sports or educational facilities in every case.

Since the School Playing Field Advisory Panel was set up, in July 2001, the Department has approved 1,076 general consent applications. The effect of a general consent is that, in certain circumstances, the specific prior consent of the Secretary of State is not required to dispose of school playing field land. Such circumstances include the disposal of an area of land to provide a facility as part of an extended school, such as childcare, lifelong learning etc.; the disposal of the ancillary social and recreational areas that surround the buildings of a closed school; certain disposals where playing fields remain as playing fields (for example a transfer to the district council); the exchange of one school playing field for a replacement newly-created school playing field of at least equal size, resulting is no net loss of facility; the disposal of areas of playing field under 50 square metres; and a temporary loss of school playing field.

Data on school playing fields were supplied to the Department by local authorities in 2001 and 2003. However, because the data were incomplete, it is not possible to assess accurately the number and area of school playing fields.

Education Ministers only have power to regulate the disposal of school playing fields. They do not have any statutory powers to govern the future use or development of school playing fields. These are matters for local planning authorities to consider.

Schools: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding has been claimed by primary schools for teacher training under the PE, School Sport and Club Links scheme. [136938]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* As part of their core funding, £36.3 million was claimed from 2004 to 2006 by School Sport Partnerships for the release of primary school teachers from the timetable to undertake training in physical education. This enables teachers to take places on the national PE, School Sport and Club Links strategy's professional development programme. This has seen over 143,000 teacher training places being undertaken by primary school teachers from April 2005 to March 2007. These places develop teacher' skills in delivering high quality physical education for their pupils.

Science: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 701W, on science: curriculum, for what reason specific mention of *(a)* role of lung structure in gas exchange, *(b)* tectonic processes, *(c)* geomorphological processes, *(d)* weather and climate, *(e)* ecosystems, *(f)* population distribution and change, *(g)* the growth and development of settlements and *(h)* specific properties of light and sound is no longer proposed to be included in the National Curriculum programmes of study. [137397]

Jim Knight: The changes in science and geography are in line with the remit that the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority was given in February 2005 when it was asked to review the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Although some of the language in the draft programmes of study has been changed, the extent of the subject content remains the same. These changes have been made to ensure that pupils can progress from their Key Stage 2 understanding through Key Stage 3 to a point where they can progress to Key Stage 4.

The following table covers the inclusion of the specific topics in the new Key Stage 3 programmes of study for science and geography.

Topic	*Where it will be covered in the new Key Stage 3 science or geography programmes of study*
(a) role of lung structure in gas exchange	Science—Range and content—Organisms, behaviour and health bullet 1 (respiration is a life process)
(b) tectonic processes	Geography—pupils to learn about how human and physical processes shape places, landscapes and societies
(c) geomorphological processes	Science—New section in Range and content—The environment Earth and Universe
	Geography—pupils to learn about how human and physical processes shape places, landscapes and societies

Topic	*Where it will be covered in the new Key Stage 3 science or geography programmes of study*
(d) weather and climate	Geography—pupils to carry out studies that involve physical geography and physical processes—this should include study of weather and climate.
(e) ecosystems	Science—New section in range and content—The environment Earth and Universe
	Geography—pupils to learn about how human and physical processes shape places, landscapes and societies
(f) population distribution and change	Science—Some precursor work in new section in range and content—The environment Earth and Universe
	Geography—pupils carry out studies that involve human geography, built and managed environments and human processes
(g) the growth and development of settlements	Geography—pupils to learn about how human and physical processes shape places, landscapes and societies
(h) specific properties of light and sound	Range and content—Energy, electricity and forces, explanatory text (the properties and behaviour of light and sound)

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1575W, on secondary education: curriculum, (1) whether the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority prepared any *(a)* systematic reviews and *(b)* quantitative meta-analyses on the principles of effective teaching during the preparation of the secondary curriculum review; [137061]

(2) what evidence the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority used to base its decision to focus on explicit teaching of metacognitive strategies in the secondary curriculum review supporting documents; [137062]

(3) what quantitative effect size was identified for each of the principles of effective teaching by the review of research into effective teaching carried out in the preparation of the secondary curriculum review. [137063]

Jim Knight: As part of its ongoing remit to monitor the National Curriculum, QCA draws on research evidence about effective teaching from a wide range of sources. Analysis and evaluation of the principles of effective teaching developed by Ellis et al was not part of the curriculum review remit given to QCA, nor was this an explicit part of the process of developing the new curriculum.

The National Curriculum is primarily about setting out an entitlement to learning in terms of the knowledge, skills and understanding that forms the statutory part of a wider school curriculum. The National Curriculum does not prescribe specific approaches to pedagogy; it is for schools themselves to choose the teaching methodologies most appropriate for the material being taught and the needs of individual learners.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1575W, on secondary education: curriculum, what evidence the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has found to suggest that learning how to learn can be taught independently of subject content. [137172]

Jim Knight: The ability to reflect on learning and how to improve performance is an essential skill for life and work. This is why it continues to be an important element of the National Curriculum.

Schools provide opportunities for young people to develop these skills through their approach to pedagogy and assessment, and particularly through their approach to assessment for learning. These opportunities can take place within subject contexts and beyond them.

As part of its ongoing remit to monitor the National Curriculum, QCA draws on research evidence about effective teaching from a wide range of sources. Evidence for successful approaches to assessment for learning can be found on the DFES Standards Site at: http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/personalisedlearning/five/afl/.

Teachers

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many physics teachers there are in the maintained sector; and how many *(a)* are under the age of (i) 40 and (ii) 30 years and *(b)* have (A) A-level physics and (B) a degree in physics; [136882]

(2) how many chemistry teachers there are in the maintained sector; and how many *(a)* are under the age of (i) 40 and (ii) 30 years and *(b)* have (A) A-level chemistry and (B) a degree in chemistry; [136883]

(3) how many biology teachers there are in the maintained sector; and how many *(a)* are under the age of (i) 40 and (ii) 30 years and *(b)* have (A) A-level biology, (B) a degree in biology and (C) a degree in biological sciences; [136884]

(4) how many mathematics teachers there are in the maintained sector; and how many *(a)* are under the age of (i) 40 and (ii) 30 years and *(b)* have (A) A-level mathematics and (B) a degree in mathematics. [136885]

Jim Knight: In 2005 the Department commissioned research about mathematics and science teachers from the National Foundation for Education Research. The report, entitled 'Mathematics and Science in Secondary Schools: The Deployment of Teachers and Support Staff to Deliver the Curriculum', can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR708.pdf.

The research included a survey of a representative sample of 40 per cent. of secondary schools in England. Projections were made of the total number of teachers in secondary schools in England delivering the mathematics and science curriculums. The findings also included distributions of the teachers by age and by highest qualification in the subject being taught.

Mathematics

The research found that there were an estimated 27,400 teachers teaching mathematics in secondary schools in England, of whom an estimated 21,100 were mathematics specialists[1] including 11,700 with a degree in mathematics. The following table shows the

distribution of mathematics teachers in terms of their mathematics qualifications. The teachers are counted once against their highest qualification in mathematics. For example, if an individual holds a degree and a PGCE in maths, they are counted in the figures for "degree in maths"; if an individual holds a PGCE in maths but a degree in another subject, they are counted against "PGCE incorporating maths".

[1] A "specialist" is defined as holding a degree in or incorporating maths, or having studied maths at initial teacher training.

Highest post-A-level qualification held by mathematics teachers in the sample

Highest qualification in mathematics	*Teachers of mathematics*	
	Number	*Percentage*
Degree in maths	1,335	42
B.Sc or BA with QTS or B.Ed in maths	524	16
Cert Ed incorporating maths	193	6
PGCE incorporating maths	583	18
Other post-A-level maths qualification	140	4
A-Level maths	189	6
No post-16 maths qualification	251	8
No response	5	<1
Total	3,220	100

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100 Source: NFER survey of teachers of mathematics, 2005.

The following table provides a breakdown of the age profile of mathematics teachers by their highest post-A-level qualification in maths.

Age range of mathematics teachers in the sample by their highest post-A-level qualification in maths

Percentage

	Age					
	Under 25	*25 to 29*	*30 to 39*	*40 to 49*	*50 to 59*	*60+*
Degree in maths	7	18	26	23	24	2
B.Ed/QTS in maths	3	8	25	34	28	2
Cert Ed in maths	0	0	0	14	80	6
PGCE in maths	4	19	35	28	14	1
Other post-A-level maths qualification	8	24	26	24	18	1
No post-A-level maths qualification	3	8	17	29	42	<1
Total	5	15	25	26	28	2

Notes:
1. Base: 3,036
2. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source:
NFER survey of teachers of mathematics, 2005

Science

The research found that there were an estimated 31,000 teachers teaching science in secondary schools in England, of whom an estimated 28,800 were specialists[2] in science. This included an estimated 13,700 biology specialists, 7,900 chemistry specialists, 5,800 physics specialists and 1,400 other science specialists.

The following table shows the breakdown of the samples of science teachers in terms of their qualifications in science. As before, individuals are shown against their highest qualification, so if an individual holds a degree in chemistry and a PGCE in science, they are included in the figures for "degree in chemistry". However, if an individual holds a first degree in biology followed by a masters degree in biochemistry they are counted in the "degree in biology" category as "school sciences" take priority.

[2] A "specialist" is defined as holding a degree in or incorporating the relevant science, or having studied the relevant science at initial teacher training.

Highest post-A-level qualification held by science teachers in the sample

Highest qualification in sciences	*Teachers of science*	
	Number	*Percentage*
Degree in Biology	753	27
Degree in Chemistry	440	16
Degree in Physics	279	10
Degree in general science	158	6
Degree in other science	415	15
B.Sc or BA with QTS or B.Ed in science	311	11
Cert Ed incorporating science	109	4
PGCE incorporating science	184	7
Other post-A-level science qualification	49	2
A-level science	29	1
No post-16 science qualification	27	1
No response	2	<1
Total	2,756	100

Note:
Due to founding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source:
NFER survey of teachers of science, 2005.

The "degree in biology" category can be disaggregated further and the next table shows the proportion of teachers holding a biology-related degree.

Type of degree in biology held by science teachers whose highest post-A-level qualification in science was a degree in biology

Type of degree	*Teachers of science*	
	Number	*Percentage*
BA/BSc Biology	340	12
BA/BSc Biology related (e.g. botany, zoology)	278	10
BA/BSc Biology and science related	72	3
BA/BSc Biology and non-science related	28	1
MA/MSc Biology	48	2
MA/MSc Other science subject[1]	27	1
DPhil/PhD Biology	40	1
DPhil/PhD Other science subject	16	<1
Total	753	27

[1] "Other science subject" includes medical-related sciences, biochemistry, environmental science, etc—see section 6.3.5
Note:
Multiple response question: respondents could give more than one degree, therefore percentages may not sum to 27.
Source:
NFER surveys of science teachers, 2005.

The following table provides a breakdown of the age profile of science teachers by their highest post-A-level qualification in science.

Age range of science teachers by highest post-A-level qualification in science

Percentage

Age range	*Degree in biology*	*Degree in chemistry*	*Degree in physics*	*Degree in general science*	*Degree in other science*	*B Ed/QTS in science*	*PGCE in science*	*Cert Ed in science*	*All science teachers*
Under 25	6	5	8	3	7	7	4	0	6
25-29	27	18	13	11	26	14	18	0	20
30-39	29	31	26	23	32	16	34	1	27
40-49	23	24	27	31	20	27	30	16	24
50-59	15	21	24	30	14	32	15	77	22
60+	<1	1	2	2	<1	4	0	6	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note:
Base: 2,597 (results for "other post-A-level qualification" in science and "no post-A-level qualification" in science not shown)
Source:
NFER survey of science teachers, 2005.

The Department has commissioned a 2007 Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey and fieldwork was completed before Easter. The survey will provide more up to date information on the qualifications of teachers delivering all subjects in secondary schools. A report will be published during the summer.

Teachers: Calderdale

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers were judged by Ofsted *(a)* not to be adhering to the school behaviour policy and *(b)* not to be complying with management requests at the Ridings school in Calderdale. [126495]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 14 May 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked how many teachers were judged by Ofsted (a) not to be adhering to the school behaviour policy and (b) not to be complying with management requests at the Ridings School in Calderdale.

Ofsted does not collect this detailed information. Inspectors observed a number of inadequate lessons at The Ridings School, and in some, the school's behaviour policy was not being followed. Other evidence, such as that emerging from discussions with support staff, indicated that children were being sent to the internal exclusion unit without earlier procedures being followed, supported the view that the problem was more widespread than those specific teachers. The school does not disagree with this judgement. However, the school inspection framework does not require—and indeed, there is insufficient time—for inspectors to observe all teachers in lessons.

Similarly, the number of staff not complying with management requests was not pursued in detail. The school's management team, governors and the Local Authority gave this as one reason for the difficulty the school was experiencing in moving forward and the evidence seen by inspectors triangulated this view. For example, an inspector observed a lesson taught by a teacher who was not a specialist in that particular subject area. It was a very poor lesson in which there was no planning, school behaviour policies were not followed by the teacher and the work was not appropriate for the students. As a result, students made no progress in their learning. The teacher explained that he was following union guidance to not adhere to any school policy regarding planning of lessons, preparing work and following behaviour policies when teaching lessons which were not in their specialist subject area.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Young People: Carers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding was provided for young people who care for family members in each of the last three years. [137038]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* As part of their general funding, local authorities have substantial resources to fulfil their responsibilities towards children and families. They also receive the Carers Special Grant which supports local authorities in providing breaks and services for carers in England. Department of Health guidance indicates that councils should consider spending around 20 per cent. of their allocation on young carers and those caring for disabled children. The Carers Grant was £125 million in 2004-05, £185 million in 2005-06 and £185 million in 2006-07. It is worth £185 million in 2007-08.

The Vulnerable Children Grant, which identified young carers as a vulnerable group, was allocated to local authorities on a formula basis. It was worth (including matched funding) a total of £84 million in 2004-05 and 2005-06. From 2006-07 onwards, the grant is no longer separately identified within DfES funding to local authority children's services. Within their overall provision, local authorities with children's services responsibilities are free to make spending

decisions in accordance with their own assessment of local needs and priorities. Out-turn expenditure information on individual vulnerable groups is not collected centrally.

The Government have also funded the Children's Society to provide the "Young Carers Initiative" at a rate of £80,000 over each of the three years up to 2006-07. The successor grant for 2007-08 to 2009-10 has been substantially increased. The grant for 2007-08 will be £205,651.

Young People: NEET

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of young people were not in education, employment or training in each of the last five years. [137333]

Jim Knight: The following table gives the proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

End of calendar year	*Proportion of 16-18 year olds not in training education, employment (NEET) (%)*
2001	10
2002	10
2003	10
2004	10
2005 provisional	11

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of young people in the London borough of Bexley were not in education, employment or training in each of the last 10 years. [137616]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table gives the proportion of 16-18 year olds in the London borough of Bexley who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Figures for earlier years are not available.

Proportion of 16-18 year olds in London borough of Bexley not in education, employment or training

	Percentage NEET
2004	7.8
2005	8.2
2006	6.9

These figures are drawn from the operational client management systems maintained the Connexions Service. They include 16-18 year olds known to the Connexions; young people who attended independent schools or were at school outside England may be excluded. The age relates to those of calendar year age 16-18 on the date of measurement. The figures are for the average percentage NEET between November and January each year.

This NEET measure is that used for setting and monitoring local authority NEET targets. The definition differs from that used to measure the national departmental PSA NEET target. Along with not covering the entire population, the Connexions NEET measure excludes those on gap years, or in custody. The PSA measure is for academic rather than calendar age 16-18.

Youth Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the Government is on target to meet the aim, identified in section 4.2 of Youth Matters: Next Steps, of a London-wide prospectus of summer opportunities; and what steps are being taken to give opportunities for summer activities to teenagers from areas of the country other than London. [137336]

Mr. Dhanda: On behalf of DfES, Summer Uni London is developing a website as an online prospectus to highlight the wide range of opportunities available to London's young people during the summer months, and enable them to sign up for those activities. When the website is launched this summer, more than half of the 33 London boroughs will detail the activities on offer in their areas through that website, and we expect all London boroughs to do so by summer 2008.

In respect of areas outside of London, the Department previously managed the Positive Activities for Young People programme (PAYP) which provided diversionary and developmental activities for young people across the country aged 8-19 during the school holidays. This funding stream passed to local area agreements (LAAs) from April 2007. It is now the legislative duty of all local authorities to provide positive activities in their locality. They are best placed to take decisions according to local need.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Direct Mail: Prosecutions

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many successful prosecutions the Information Commissioner made against direct mailers in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [137280]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply.

The Information Commissioner has not made any prosecutions against direct mailers in any of the last five years.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what powers the Information Commissioner has to curb irresponsible direct mailers; and if he will make a statement. [137281]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply.

The Information Commissioner has regulatory powers to bring about compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. In serious cases involving direct mailing, the Commissioner has the power to issue an enforcement notice requiring an organisation or individual to take specified action to comply with the Act. Failure to comply with such a notice is a criminal offence.

The Commissioner also has the ability to seek an enforcement order under the Enterprise Act 2002 in cases to require an organisation to cease conduct, which is harmful to consumers.

Measures: EU Action

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry following the announcement of revised policy on weights and measures in the EU Trade and Industry Commissioner's recent statement, if he will press for the late Mr. Steven Thoburn to receive a posthumous Royal Pardon. [137410]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 15 May 2007]:* The Government have no such plans.

Nuclear Power: Research

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to support research into nuclear fusion. [136677]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK invests in fusion research through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). Almost all UK fusion research currently takes place at UKAEA Culham, which will receive grant support from EPSRC of £95 million over the four years to 2007-08. This is in addition to the EU funding for the Joint European Torus and other activities at Culham, and the EU participation in the ITER project.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Australia: Whales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Australian Government on whaling. [138172]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with the Australian Government on the subject of whaling.

The UK and Australia share very similar views in their opposition to commercial whaling.

The UK Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) discussed whaling with the Australian Alternate Commissioner, and others, at a meeting of like-minded anti-whaling countries in Washington in January. The UK Commissioner also held discussions with the Australian Commissioner bilaterally in London in December 2006, and then again in New York in May. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs officials continue to work closely with staff at the Australian high commission in London, and directly with the Australian IWC delegation, with whom we have an excellent working relationship. The UK and Australia will be represented at ministerial level during this year's IWC meeting in Anchorage on 28 to 31 May, during which the Ministers will hold regular discussions.

Embassies

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Cabinet Ministers stayed at the British Embassy in *(a)* Beijing between 19 and 24 February 2005 and *(b)* Dubai between 19 and 23 September 2003. [136324]

Mr. Hoon: No Cabinet Ministers stayed in these embassies. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in Beijing for one day during this period. He was also in Dubai from 19 to 22 September 2003 to attend the Annual Meetings of Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF). As chairman of the International Monetary and Financial Committee the IMF provided and paid for his accommodation.

Iraq

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of unspent funds in the Iraqi budget in each of the last three financial years. [137181]

Mr. McCartney: The following table contains estimates of Government of Iraq (GoI) planned and actual revenue and expenditure between 2004 and 2007 in millions of Iraqi Dinars. The financial year in Iraq runs on our calendar year. We do not hold accurate estimates for expenditure figures for 2004 as this marks the transition from the Coalition Provisional Authority to the Interim Iraqi Government.

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Budget estimate of revenues[1]	21,729,100	28,958,608	45,392,304	42,064,530
Budget estimate of expenditures[2]	n/a	35,981,168	50,963,161	51,727,468
Estimate of final revenues[3]	26,595,000	36,655,000	49,265,000	n/a
Estimate of final expenditures[4]	n/a	29,130,000	38,922,000	n/a

[1] Source: GoI budget. This excludes some items including grants from donors and some government operations including sale of State Owned Enterprises.
[2] Source: GoI budget. This excludes some items including donor financed spending and subsidies in kind to state owned enterprises.
[3] Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF) published reports
[4] Source: IMF published reports.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on persecution of the Christian community in Iraq; and what estimate she has made of the number of Christians who have *(a)* been displaced from their homes in Iraq and *(b)* left Iraq. [137230]

Mr. Hoon: We monitor the situation of Iraq's Christian and other minority communities closely through our regular contacts with the Government of Iraq, Christian politicians and community representatives in Iraq and London. Most recently, on 10 May our embassy in Baghdad raised the issue of threats against Christians in the Dora district of Baghdad with the Iraqi Minister of Interior and encouraged the Iraqi Government to take action.

We remain deeply concerned about the impact of violence on all Iraqis and continue to press the Government of Iraq to improve security and support international efforts to care for those affected by violence. Since the beginning of 2007 we have allocated £10 million for the humanitarian effort co-ordinated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and International Committee of the Red Cross. This brings our total humanitarian contribution in Iraq to over £125 million since 2003.

While there are no comprehensive or reliable figures available on the number of Christians displaced or who have left Iraq since 2003, the International Organisation for Migration estimates that 7-8 per cent. of people internally displaced in Iraq in 2006 were Christians.

Uganda: International Conferences

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost will be of the three-day Commonwealth meeting in Uganda in November 2007; how much will be met by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* other UK Government Departments; and if she will make a statement. [137528]

Mr. McCartney: The Government of Uganda will meet overall costs of hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, which takes place in Kampala in November. The Government are not contributing to these costs. However, UK officials' and Ministers' travel and accommodation costs will be met by their parent Departments.

UN Resolutions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which states have not presented to the Security Council Committee a first report on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540 (2004). [137086]

Mr. McCartney: As of 1 May, the following states had not submitted to the Security Council Committee, established pursuant to resolution 1540, a first report on steps they had taken or intended to take to implement UN Security Council resolution 1540: Afghanistan; Barbados; Bhutan; Botswana; Burundi; Cameroon; Cape Verde; Central African Republic; Chad; Comoros; Congo; Cote d'Ivoire; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Equatorial Guinea; Ethiopia; Fiji; Gabon; Gambia; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Haiti; Lesotho; Liberia; Madagascar; Malawi; Maldives; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Micronesia (Federated States of); Mozambique; Nauru; Niger; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Rwanda; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; San Marino; Sao Tome and Principe; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Solomon Islands; Somalia; Sudan; Suriname; Swaziland; Timor-Leste; Togo; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of UK reports to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). [137096]

Mr. McCartney: The UK reports to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) will be placed in the Library of the House and a copy of the reports will be sent to the right hon. Member.

JUSTICE

Courts: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the average cost was per prisoner per night of housing a prisoner in a court cell in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [136760]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To date, one invoice to the value of £120,000 (excluding VAT) has been paid to cover the contingency of having places available in court cells between 17 January and 6 February.

This covers the availability of 380 places in court cells (19 places for 20 nights), giving a cost per place of around £300.

12 prisoner nights were spent in court cells during this period.

Home Detention Curfews

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what the cost per prisoner was of the Home Detention Curfew scheme in each year since 1999; [137160]

(2) how many electronic tags were used as part of the Home Detention Curfew scheme in each year since 1999; and what the cost is of an individual electronic tag. [137161]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The current daily cost of monitoring a person on HDC is about £14. This and other financial data related to HDC can be found in paragraphs 1.14-1.16 of the National Audit Office report on Electronic Monitoring of February 2006 at:

www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/05-06/0506800.pdf

The cost per prisoner of operating the Home Detention Curfew (HDC) scheme in each year since 1999 has not been calculated centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

For information on the number of prisoners subject to electronic monitoring under HDC I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1582W. The exact number of tags used for this purpose is not calculated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The amount payable under the contracts for delivering the service is not broken down by individual tag or other equipment costs.

Parking: Fines

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many parking tickets were issued by post in each of the last 12 months; and how many such fines entailed increased payments as a result of late payment. [136831]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data are not collected centrally to the details required.

The penalty charge notices (PCNs) and fixed penalty notices (FPNs) collections held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform do not distinguish between obstruction, waiting and parking contraventions. Tickets issued by post are not identified.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice in which prisons each of the 20,000 new places provided in the last 10 years were located; and when the contracts in respect of these places were let. [137114]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Of the 20,000 places provided in the prison estate since 1997, around 17,000 are new build places. Around 3,000 places have been provided as crowded accommodation within the newly built places.

Nine new prisons have opened since 1997, providing around 6,000 of the 17,000 new build places. The contract dates for each are shown in the following table.

Establishment	*Contract date*
Parc	4 January 1996
Altcourse	20 December 1995
Lowdham Grange	7 November 1996
Ashfield	1 July 1998
Forest Bank	6 July 1998
Rye Hill	23 July 1999
Dovegate	27 September 1999
Bronzefield	20 December 2002
Peterborough	4 February 2003

Since 1997 there have also been expansions within around 80 existing prisons providing approximately 11,000 new places of the 17,000.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to her answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 367W, on the Prison Service, (1) how many inmates have not been fingerprinted in the prison population; and if she will make a statement; [137353]

(2) how many prison establishments are not in full compliance with the National Security Framework policy on fingerprinting; and if she will make a statement. [137354]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Career Structure

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what mechanisms exist to regulate the promotion of staff working within HM Prison Service; and if she will make a statement. [137726]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Promotion in the Prison Service is based on competence. For most posts this will be by way of a competence based application form and interview. Job Simulation Assessment Centres (JSACs) are used to accredit staff at key operational promotion points. In exceptional circumstances, a managed appointment may be used to post someone on promotion.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the shortfall is of prison staff at *(a)* operational support grade, *(b)* prison officer, *(c)* senior prison officer, *(d)* principal prison officer and *(e)* governor grade level; and if she will make a statement. [137485]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The shortfall against staffing requirement across the public sector Prison Service in the specified grades is shown in the table. Contracted prisons have different grade structures and are therefore excluded.

Shortfall against operational staffing requirement

Grade	*Shortfall at 30 April 2007*[1, 2, 3]
Operational Support Grades	245
Prison Officer	596
Senior Officer	104
Principal Officer	33
Operational Managers (previously known as Governors)	36

[1] The shortfall is shown after accounting for the contribution of contracted supplementary hours among officers and agency staff for OSGs and is the sum of shortfalls at all establishments that have a shortfall in one or more grade types.
[2] The totals have not been offset by surpluses at other locations.
[3] The information is derived from the Personnel Corporate Database, Oracle HRMS and Quarterly Forecast Change Forms. These systems are liable to the normal inaccuracies associated with any large-scale reporting systems.

Prison Service: Pay

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the cost would be to HM Prison Service of paying off all outstanding time off in lieu hours at the contract hours rate; and if she will make a statement. [137285]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not the policy of the Prison Service to make payment to staff in respect of outstanding time off in lieu except in exceptional circumstances i.e. a member of staff leaving the service. However, at 31 March 2006, the date of the last set of audited accounts, the cost of paying all outstanding amounts would have been £1,470,713 at the contracted hours rate.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was spent by HM Prison Service on payments to staff whilst suspended from duty in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [137310]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service does not summarise the costs in this way and would need to review individual files which could be done only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what mechanisms exist to determine the award of bonuses within HM Prison Service; who is responsible for determining the size of the budget to be used for bonuses: and if she will make a statement. [137723]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison Service Order 8480 Performance Recognition details the criteria which determine the award of bonuses within HM Prison Service. These criteria allow managers to award a bonus payment of up to £2,000 and, with Director General approval, a bonus payment of between £2,001 and £20,000. The size of the budget for bonuses is determined by the budget holder and may not exceed 0.5 per cent. of the pay bill costs in any business unit.

Prison Service: Training

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the average cost was of *(a)* recruiting and *(b)* training a prison officer in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [137302]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested on the average cost of recruiting and training a prison officer is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the cost was to HM Prison Service in each of the last four years for *(a)* compensating staff sacked unfairly, *(b)* compensating staff constructively dismissed and *(c)* paying the total legal costs of these dismissals; and if she will make a statement. [137287]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service does not summarise the costs in this way and would need to review individual files which could be done only at a disproportionate cost. The total amount of compensation paid to staff, including legal costs in each of the last four years was:

	£
2003-04	913,645
2004-05	948,089
2005-06	1,797,823
2006-07	493,991

Prison Service: Working Hours

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what hours *(a)* non-operational and *(b)* operational prison governors are expected to work; what salary is received by each; and if she will make a statement. [137299]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service does not have non-operational prison governors. Operational managers have a pattern of attendance that is unpredictable. It is impossible to construct weekly conditioned hours as limits for normal attendance are variable. However, regard is taken of the working time regulations 48 hours average weekly limit.

Salary rates for operational managers are determined annually by the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB). Current rates from 1 April 2007 are:

		£
Grade	*Minimum p.a.*	*Maximum p.a.*
Senior manager A	60,442	77,945
Senior manager B	55,528	76,793
Senior manager C	53,357	69,157
Senior manager D	44,589	63,535
Manager E	29,184	43,927
Manager F	26,280	37,262
Manager G	23,434	30,676

A required hours addition is also payable to operational managers E to G at a rate of £5,356 per annum.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what definition of excessive working hours is used by HM Prison Service; and if she will make a statement; [137301]

(2) what steps she is taking to reduce the culture of long hours in HM Prison Service; what *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* controls are in place to support this objective; and if she will make a statement. [137303]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Uniformed grades are contractually required to work 39 hours per week, average on a predictable shift cycle. Non-operational governor grades are required to notionally work 41 hours in the London area and 42 elsewhere, including meal breaks. Operational governors work on the basis of being available to respond to emergency situations and therefore are unable to work a set shift cycle. However, working arrangements are set so as to ensure that there is an on-call rota system to ensure hours are spread evenly across available staff. Governors do not work regularly in excess of guidelines set by the Working Time Directive.

In-charge governors are aware of the Working Time Directive and are responsible for monitoring the hours worked by all staff in their establishment.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to her answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 367W, on prisons, what assessment she has made of the level of compliance with the requirements for fingerprinting at prison establishments; and if she will make a statement. [137722]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Compensation

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which five prison establishments spent the highest proportion of their budget on *(a)*

legal costs and *(b)* compensation payments in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [137311]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not possible to allocate legal costs to individual compensation payments without reviewing individual files which could be done only at a disproportionate cost.

Compensation payments are not met from establishment budgets but are funded from centrally held funds. The five prison with the highest costs as a proportion of their budget in each of the last five years are:

2006-07
- Northallerton
- Cardiff
- Blantyre House
- Dover
- Swansea

2005-06
- Dover
- Liverpool
- Swaleside
- Hewell Grange
- Wormwood Scrubs

2004-05
- Chelmsford
- Bedford
- Lancaster Castle
- Dorchester
- Haverigg

2003-04
- Wormwood Scrubs
- East Sutton Park
- Parkhurst
- Styal
- Exeter

2002-03
- Holloway
- Stafford
- Shrewsbury
- Wayland
- Lincoln

Prisons: Standards

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps she is taking to advertise the results of professional standards investigations to HM Prison Service staff; and if she will make a statement. [137284]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At present we do not advertise the results of professional standards investigations. However, this will be considered as part of an ongoing improvement plan to strengthen the Prison Service's approach to tackling corruption.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many area professional standards managers do not have operational experience in prison establishments; and if she will make a statement. [137305]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Two of the area professional standards managers currently in post have not worked in an operational role in a prison establishment.

Privacy

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will take steps to introduce a requirement to produce privacy impact assessments when regulatory impact assessments are undertaken. [137180]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply

Following a public consultation, on 2 April 2007 the Government announced the introduction of a new impact assessment (IA) process focused on improving the quality of the economic and other analysis underpinning policy-making.

While the Government have no current plans to incorporate privacy impact assessments into the IA process, they will consider the appropriate way to assess these impacts as proposals arise. In addition, as policy makers are already asked to take account of the full range of economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of their proposals, it would be expected that where privacy issues have a material impact on assessing the costs and benefits of proposals, these would also be taken into account.

Details of the new IA can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/ria/index.asp

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Recycling

12. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what programmes his Department has developed aimed at promoting recycling by young people. [137597]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste and Resources Action Programme runs school visits and events which encourage children to think about how waste is managed. Over 6,800 schools have registered under the Eco-Schools programme, and waste is often taught as part of wider sustainable development issues under the national curriculum.

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the Local Government Association's proposal on permitting local authorities to provide incentives for residents who assist in raising recycling performance. [137591]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have sympathy with local councils' request for more freedom to use incentives to encourage recycling. Where such schemes exist in other countries, recycling has increased and overall waste fallen, leading to a double environmental and cost benefit to householders.

Inland Waterways

14. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the long-term maintenance of inland waterways. [137599]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA sponsors British Waterways, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority. I look to them to manage and maintain their waterways in a safe, modern, integrated manner that delivers the wider public benefit such as regeneration, in a fully sustainable way within the resources available.

Packaging

16. **Mr. Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of supermarkets on reducing packaging. [137601]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Ministerial colleagues and I have had a number of recent meetings with senior supermarket representatives to discuss a wide range of environmental issues, including packaging.

All the major retailers and several major brands have agreed to a Government request to reduce the amount of packaging in the first place, designing out packaging growth by 2008 and deliver absolute reductions in packaging by March 2010.

Energy Efficiency

17. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure that new schools, hospitals and other public buildings meet high standards of energy efficiency. [137602]

Ian Pearson: The Government have put in place a combination of challenging targets and minimum standards to ensure that new public buildings are energy efficient and make a long term contribution to lower carbon emissions.

Waste Management

18. **Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on support for measures to improve waste management at the local level, with particular reference to recycling. [137605]

Mr. Bradshaw: My officials and I meet regularly with the Local Government Association. Increased recycling is a goal we share and are working on together. The household waste recycling rate has quadrupled since 1997 and further measures to increase recycling will be announced in our new waste strategy shortly.

Family Farms

19. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs What recent assessment he has made of the prospects for small family farms. [137606]

Barry Gardiner: The future business prospects for farming will reflect the interaction of the key drivers (both long-term and short-term) which have shaped the present position. Projections of total income from farming which reflects the income to all UK farms, were published in Agriculture in the UK in March of this year.

Flood and Sea Defences

20. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he next expects to meet representatives of local drainage boards to discuss flood and sea defences. [137607]

Ian Pearson: I am due to attend the Association of Drainage Authorities annual conference on 31 October.

Air Pollution: Neasden

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many days in the last 12 months air pollution levels recorded on Neasden Lane exceeded *(a)* moderate, *(b)* high and *(c)* very high; and if he will make a statement. [136259]

Mr. Bradshaw: Air quality at Neasden Lane is monitored for two air pollutants: nitrogen dioxide and PM_{10} particulate matter. Provisional data from the London Air Quality Network indicate that monitored levels of nitrogen dioxide at this location did not exceed "moderate" levels at any time between 1 May 2006 and 1 May 2007. Monitored levels of PM_{10} particulate matter during this period fell within the "moderate" range of air quality for 90 days, within the "high" range of air quality for 44 days and within the "very high" range of air quality for 80 days.

Neasden Lane has uniquely high levels of observed PM_{10} particulates for a London air quality monitoring site due to the influence of a single local source of emissions: the waste transfer site at the nearby Neasden Goods Depot. In the past, DEFRA has assisted Brent council in funding a detailed assessment of air pollution in this area, which attributed the elevated PM_{10} levels to these waste operations.

The Environment Agency, which regulates operation at Neasden Goods Depot, has been working in conjunction with the London borough of Brent to address these emissions through:

(i) regular inspection of the waste transfer facility;

(ii) monitoring of air quality within the depot's vicinity;

(iii) designing and implementing mitigation measures in conjunction with the site operators to reduce dust and particulate emissions; and

(iv) ensuring that the site operators are operating within permitted limits, requiring them to take specific actions when appropriate.

Improvements made as part of this process include the installation at the depot of dust suppression systems and improvements to drainage and surfacing of the site, to reduce dust and particulate formation.

Recent developments also include an increase in the frequency of air quality monitoring, which is available on the internet at:

www.londonair.org.uk.

Avian Influenza

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* provenance and *(b)* contents were of the feed given to the turkey poults infected with the H5N1 virus at the Bernard Matthews plant at Holton during the months of January and February 2007. [133890]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 April 2007]*: DEFRA does not hold information on the precise provenance and contents of the feed given to the turkey poults infected with the H5N1 virus at the Bernard Matthews plant at Holton during the months of January and February 2007.

However, the feed mill that produced the feed is approved under the Universal Feed Assurance Scheme. An investigation of the premises found it to be maintained to a very high standard. The whole storage and manufacturing process is inaccessible to wild birds. The feedstuffs produced at the mill comprise only ingredients from UK sources. The main component of the feedstuff produced is pelleted feed in a computer controlled operation which includes a heating process to at least 80°C. Whole wheat grains are added to the pellets making up to 30 per cent. of the final ration. Before inclusion the wheat goes through a spraying process with a proprietary solution (Anitox Monoprene F Liquid) containing ammonium salts of propionic and butyric acids, propionic acid and formaldehyde.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has examined on whether avian influenza H5N1 is transmissible through the carcasses of infected poultry. [136293]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is a base of evidence to support the suggestion that avian influenza H5N1 is transmissible to other susceptible poultry through the carcasses of infected poultry.

The Veterinary Laboratories Agency is undertaking further research to investigate the survivability of avian influenza viruses in carcasses.

Biosecurity

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what classification system the Government uses for biosecurity lapses. [136880]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 May 2007]*: I assume the hon. Member is referring to biosecurity lapses in terms of animal health. Such lapses are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Due to the fact that several different pieces of legislation cover biosecurity issues, and the diverse nature of the premises and holdings covered, it would be inappropriate to implement a single, indiscriminate classification system for biosecurity lapses.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1230W, on bovine tuberculosis, what steps he is taking to increase the speed with which results of tests to determine the presence of bovine TB in cattle are conveyed to the owner. [136242]

Mr. Bradshaw: Bovine tuberculosis test results are conveyed to the herd owner as quickly as possible.

Skin test results are already provided to the farmer on the day the test results are collected. Gamma-interferon blood tests require samples to be sent to the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA) for processing. Since the roll-out of this method in October 2006, the average turnaround time from receipt of the sample to issuing a result by email to the submitting Animal Health Divisional Office (AHDO) has been 2.01 working days. It would be impossible for the VLA to complete this any quicker as it is an overnight assay.

Animal Health try to contact the herd owner the day they receive the results from the VLA. If this is not possible, the herd owner would be contacted the following day. Dependent upon the circumstances, AHDOs call or write to the herd owner to explain the results.

It is difficult to see how the procedure for disclosing test results to owners could be sped up.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many bovine tuberculin skin tests were carried out by lay testers in each year between 2004 and 2007; [137032]

(2) how many lay testers were involved in tuberculosis testing in each year between 2004 and 2007. [137033]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 15 May 2007]*: The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Bovine tuberculin skin tests carried out by lay testers	*Trainee lay testers*	*Trainees that performed testing*	*Certified after training to perform unsupervised testing*
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	4,740	34	23	1
2006	22,737	33	24	13
2007[1]	7,422	20	8	7

[1] To date

During training, lay testers only perform tests under the supervision of a qualified vet. After training, lay testers perform the tests but qualified vets interpret the results to determine a diagnosis of the tested animals.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether cattle tested for tuberculosis by a lay tester would have the necessary clearance for live export from the UK. [137036]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 15 May 2007]*: European Council Directive 64/432/EEC requires cattle more than six weeks old to have reacted negatively to an intradermal tuberculin test carried out during the 30 days prior to export. Although technical staff employed by Animal Health have been recognised as 'approved tuberculosis testers', lay testers are not used for pre-export testing of cattle for tuberculosis (TB).

This is in accordance with the Veterinary Surgery (Testing for TB in Bovines) Order 2005, and there are no plans to change this policy.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department publishes on the contribution that the behaviour of individuals is capable of making to the reduction of carbon emissions from homes. [137604]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA and other public sector organisations are running a number of climate-change communications activities to stimulate action by individuals. These include campaigns to address household energy efficiency, such as the Energy Saving Trust's "Commit to save your 20 per cent.", and DEFRA's guide to greener living.

Departments: Environment Protection

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has provided to other Departments and agencies on the establishment of environmentally sustainable strategies for the Government estate in relation to *(a)* new buildings, *(b)* retrofitting existing buildings, *(c)* water use, *(d)* land use and *(e)* transport arrangements. [136244]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA provide guidance on sustainable operations on the Government estate, on the estates pages of the Government's sustainable development website:

http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/government/estates/index.htm

Additional guidance is provided by other parts of DEFRA and by other Government Departments:

(a) New buildings

(b) Retrofitting existing buildings

Government guidance on public sector construction and property asset management includes sustainable development considerations. Both OGC's 'High Performing Property' programme and 'Common Minimum Standards for the Built Environment' documents reflect Government's environmental and sustainable development targets and standards. Departments are also mandated to work with the Carbon Trust, using their carbon management programme.

www.ogc.gov.uk/better_asset_management_efficiency_in_property_asset_management.asp

www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Common_Minimum_Standards_PDF.pdf

(c) Water use

The following site includes a page covering environmental performance at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/envperform.htm.

It links to guidance from governmental and non-governmental bodies, such as WaterWise, Envirowise, Market Transformation Programme and the "Quick Wins", giving details of water saving appliances and technologies.

DEFRA have also issued sustainability guidance to public sector food procurers:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/guidance.htm.

(d) Land use

DEFRA would expect Government Departments and agencies to reflect planning policy in developing their estate.

(e) Transport arrangements.

DEFRA have set up a Civil Service Travel Group to identify Government travel practices, and to assist Departments to travel in a more sustainable way when doing business. It also aims to place sustainability at the heart of all Government travel procurement and contract management.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will issue guidance to local authorities on the frequency of refuse collections; and if he will make a statement; [135797]

(2) what recent guidance he has provided to local councils on the frequency of waste collection services; and if he will make a statement. [137000]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answers 8 and 14 May 2007]:* Decisions on the best way to collect waste are rightly a matter for local authorities, not central Government. However, my Department has funded research and guidance through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to assist local authorities in carrying out their operations in their chosen manner efficiently and effectively.

Environment Protection: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated administrative cost is of *(a)* the Rural Development Plan for England, *(b)* the entry level scheme, *(c)* the higher level scheme and *(d)* the England Woodland Grant Scheme (i) for 2006-07 and (ii) for each successive year of the plan period. [136892]

Barry Gardiner: Separating out the administrative costs for the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and its constituent schemes would incur disproportionate cost. They are included within the wider running cost budgets for DEFRA, Natural England, the Forestry Commission, the eight Regional Development Agencies and the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). In some cases, people, systems and resources used for administering the 2007-13 RDPE are also engaged in other areas of work. For example, on other Common Agricultural Policy schemes in the case of RPA.

Floods: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has given to the Environment Agency on the terms under which its flood risk data may be supplied to third party resellers. [137206]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA has not provided the Environment Agency (EA) with any specific guidance on the supply of flood risk data to third party resellers.

The EA is an accredited organisation under the Information Fair Trader Scheme and applies a transparent and consistent charging policy to all of their customers. The recently agreed Public Sector Information Directive has created a new charging policy which enables EA to adhere to the correct charging terms.

Flood risk data are priced according to this charging policy which includes royalties derived from third party resellers.

Floods: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last discussed with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the allowing of house building on land prone to flooding. [133661]

Ian Pearson: My Department meets regularly with the Department for Communities and Local Government, at both ministerial and official level, to discuss a broad range of issues related to delivering sustainable communities and new housing growth. Most recently, the Government have published revised planning policy guidance on development and flood risk, Planning Policy Statement 25, which sets out clear guidelines for planning authorities to avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas.

Fly Tipping: Sheffield

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in Sheffield in each of the last four years; and what the estimated cost was of dealing with such incidents; [136563]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* successful prosecutions there were in Sheffield for fly-tipping in each year since 2004; and how much has been recovered through related fines. [136564]

Mr. Bradshaw: Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, was set up in 2004 by Defra, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association to record the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities. Data are, therefore, only available from April 2004 onwards and are as follows:

	2004-05	*2005-06*
Total number of incidents in Sheffield	170,570	161,907
Estimated clearance costs (£)	5,529,643	4,909,438
Number of prosecutions taken to court	1	0
Number of successful prosecutions	1	0

Data for 2006-07 are not yet available, but will be published in the summer.

Fly Tipping: West Sussex

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in West Sussex in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* each of the last four years for which figures are available; and what the estimated cost was of dealing with such incidents; [136755]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* successful prosecutions there were in West Sussex for fly-tipping in (i) 1997 and (ii) each of the last four years for which figures are available. [136821]

Mr. Bradshaw: Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, was set up in 2004 by Defra, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association to record the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities. Data are, therefore, only available from April 2004 onwards and are as follows:

	2004-05	*2005-06*
Total number of incidents in West Sussex	5,228	6,471
Estimated clearance costs (£)	263,414.02	305,963.88
Number of prosecutions taken to court	1	0
Number of successful prosecutions	1	0

Data for 2006-07 are not yet available but will be published in the summer.

Food: Packaging

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to encourage food suppliers to use less packaging; and what discussions he has had over the last six months. [136771]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Swansea, East (Mrs. James) on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1525W.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate the Government have made of the amount of food packaging used in each year since 1997. [136772]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, East and Wallsend (Mr. Brown) on 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 382W.

Hares

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received, and from whom, on the introduction of a closed season for the shooting of hares; and if he will make a statement. [137136]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 15 May 2007]:* My Department has received representations in support of this matter from several hon. Members on behalf of

constituents, (including Mr. Rodney Hale, chairman of the British Brown Hare Preservation Society), a petition signed by 505 members of the public, and letters from four further individuals.

Brown hares are not protected by a close season in the UK. In part, this is because it is recognised that hares can cause serious agricultural damage, and farmers need the flexibility to address problems when they occur. But mainly it is because there is currently no evidence that the introduction of a close season would significantly enhance hare numbers. Hare numbers have declined throughout Europe despite protection with close seasons.

The Hare Preservation Act 1892 forbids the sale of hares during the notional main breeding season of 1 March to 31 July inclusive. This discourages farmers from shooting hares for commercial gain at this time, and aims to limit control during the breeding season to that necessary for crop protection.

The current view of the Brown Hare Species Action Plan Steering Group is that habitat changes due to modern farming practices, rather than hunting or shooting, are the main cause of population decline in the brown hare. The steering group, which advises DEFRA on this species, has therefore not recommended the establishment of a close season. If there is any change to this advice then a case for new legislation to protect the brown hare would be considered.

National Fruit Collection

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce a decision on the tendering of the contract to manage the National Fruit Collection; and if he will make a statement. [137425]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* Our intention is to announce the decision in late summer or early autumn. A written statement will be made once the outcome of the tendering exercise is known.

Nature Conservation: EC Action

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many habitat compensation schemes under Article 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive there have been in the UK: [137338]

(2) what the name was of each project in respect of which a consent was granted requiring compensatory measures under Regulation 53 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.,) Regulations 1994 since those Regulations were introduced; in what year each consent was granted; what type of consent each was; and which European site was affected in each case. [137339]

Barry Gardiner: A small number of consents requiring the provision of compensatory measures have been granted since the Regulations were introduced. However, the information requested is not collected centrally. Therefore I have asked my officials to gather the information and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available. Copies of the letter will be made available to all hon. Members in the Library of the House.

Non-Food Environmental Grazing Animals

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what welfare and veterinary provision is made for non-food environmental grazing animals; and if he will make a statement. [137317]

Mr. Bradshaw: Non-food grazing animals are protected by the Animal Welfare Act, which came into force on 6 April 2007. The Act extends the law, formerly only applicable to farmed animals, so that all owners and keepers will have to provide for the needs of their animals. Anyone failing to provide for the needs of their animals may be guilty of the welfare offence. This additional offence will mean that action may be taken before an animal starts to suffer.

Organic Food: Milk

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much organic milk was imported into the UK in each year between 2002 and 2006. [136976]

Barry Gardiner: The official overseas trade statistics do not separately identify organic milk.

The Organic Milk Suppliers Cooperative (OMSCO) estimate 7 million litres of organic milk were imported into the UK in 2006-07 (published in the March 2007 Organic Milk Market Report). Earlier years are not available.

It should be noted that OMSCOs estimate of organic milk imports may not be fully comparable, in terms of data capture and estimation methods, with the official overseas trade statistics on total liquid milk.

Pests

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what criteria were used to draw up the Environment Agency's list of the top 10 worst invasive pests; [136872]

(2) what assessment was made of the grey squirrel against the criteria used to draw up the Environment Agency's list of the top 10 worst invasive pests. [137448]

Barry Gardiner: The main criterion in drawing up the Environment Agency's (EA) list of the top 10 worst invasive pests was the impact that a particular non-native invasive species has on the EA's activities and responsibilities. In November 2005, a questionnaire survey asked all 26 of the EA's area teams to identify species that were having an impact and to rank the top 10 using a simple scoring system (one to 10). The overall top 10 list was derived from the aggregate scores across the EA as a whole.

The grey squirrel does not impact on EA activities and responsibilities. Therefore, it did not feature in the list.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislation governs the welfare of battery hens; whether any proposed changes to this legislation are being considered; and if he will make a statement. [137001]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* Council Directive 99/74/EC lays down minimum standards for the welfare of laying hens. The directive bans the practice of keeping laying hens in conventional cages throughout the EU from 1 January 2012. This has been implemented in England through the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002 No. 1646).

The directive specifically requires the EU Commission to prepare a report on the various systems that exist for keeping laying hens, including their health and environmental impact. The report will also take into account the socio-economic implications of the various systems and their effects on the Community's economic partners.

We will consider the report and the evidence it contains once it is published. In the meantime, our policy remains that there should be no conventional cages from 2012. Reviewing the future of conventional cages on an EU basis will ensure that any legislative changes apply to all EU producers, thus avoiding the risk of simply displacing egg production to other countries.

Rural Development Programme: Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what account was taken by his Department of the guiding principles of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain and England Implementation Group indicators in drawing up the draft Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13; [136420]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely contribution of measures contained in the draft Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 to meeting the targets for 2014 set out in the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain; and if he will make a statement; [136421]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 will support a range of existing Government priorities. In deciding how to use the programme, we have taken account of other mechanisms and sources of funding available to address our priorities, and of the responses to the consultation on the programme's priorities that ran last year.

The main focus of the programme will be environmental outcomes, in particular maintaining our commitment to Environmental Stewardship. The programme will also be used to help make agriculture and forestry more competitive and sustainable, and to enhance opportunities in rural areas.

The programme will include a wide range of indicators which will be used to evaluate its success in contributing to strategies such as the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain.

Sewers: Private Sector

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to consult on the means and timing of the transfer of ownership of private sewers to water and sewerage companies. [136878]

Ian Pearson: Following the Government's decision to transfer ownership of private sewers to water and sewerage companies, a further public consultation on the implementation options for transfer will take place over the summer. The consultation will also pose questions on the scope of assets to be included in the transfer and ways in which new private sewers can be prevented.

Sustainable Development: Housing

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the potential environmental impact of the code for sustainable housing. [137589]

Ian Pearson: Ministers and officials in DEFRA and Communities and Local Government worked closely together to produce the code for sustainable homes, taking into account environmental impacts and Government have set an ambitious target for zero carbon new housing by 2016.

Warm Front Scheme

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households in each local authority were assisted by the Warm Front scheme in each year since the scheme was introduced. [136348]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally. Therefore, a full response could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I will write to the hon. Member with further information shortly and I will arrange for copies of the letter to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Waste and Resources Action Programme spent on working with retailers and their supply chains to reduce waste in 2006-07; and what plans it has to carry out this work in the future. [136783]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* In 2006-07, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) spent £3.6 million on this specific area of work.

WRAP is working with retailers and their supply chains towards its 2006-08 Business Plan target to secure reductions in packaging waste of 80,000 tonnes a year.

Water: Shortages

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fines have been issued for contravening hosepipe bans in the last 12 months, broken down by water company. [136881]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* Neither DEFRA nor Ofwat hold data on any action taken in the courts against alleged breaches of hosepipe bans, by water companies or any other party.

Wheat: Imports

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much wheat was imported into the UK in each year between 2002 and 2006. [136975]

Barry Gardiner: The following table shows the volume of wheat imported into the UK for each year between 2002 and 2006 as published in Agriculture in the United Kingdom.

	Thousand tonnes *UK Imports of wheat*
2002	1368
2003	985
2004	784
2005	1175
2006	1162

Note:
2006 data are provisional

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the Operational Improvement Plan on the performance of the Child Support Agency. [132769]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the impact of the Operational Improvement Plan on the performance of the Child Support Agency. [132769]

The initial phase of the Operational Improvement Plan has focused on the organisational and operational restructuring of the Agency, and the training of our people to increase our capacity and capability. No commitments were made for the first year but the performance of the Agency has been steadily improving with early results showing improvements in several key areas and more money is already getting to more children. At the end of December 2006 compared with a year ago:

58,000 more children were in receipt of maintenance or had a maintenance-direct arrangement in place.

Applications are being cleared more quickly: 55 per cent. within twelve weeks, up from 49 per cent. and meeting target level for March 2007, and 74 per cent. within six months, up from 64 per cent.

Client Service has improved: The Agency answered 97 per cent. of queued calls over 12 months, up from 90 per cent.

I am confident the performance figures for the last quarter, due to be published later this week, will continue to demonstrate the ongoing developments in the Agency's performance.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on his plans to transfer the payment of child support for those on the pre-2003 system to the new system. [131819]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Easington (John Cummings), published in Hansard on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 233W.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will examine the case of Mark Albutt, reference 1039432336, and the demands being made by the Child Support Agency for payment of arrears. [133411]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Jos Jones:

In reply to you recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is out of the country, I am responding with his authority.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he would examine the case of Mark Albutt reference 1039432336 and the demands being made by the Child Support Agency for payment of arrears. [133411]

As the details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of decisions on applications made to the Child Support Agency were revised because they contained errors in each quarter since spring 2003. [136487]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The information requested is not available.

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the procedure is for collection of debt by the Child Support Agency for old rules cases where changes in circumstances have subsequently occurred; and if he will make a statement. [133409]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Jos Joures, dated 17 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is out of the country I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the procedure is for collection of debt by the Child Support Agency for old rules cases where changes in circumstances have subsequently occurred; and if he will make a statement. [133409]

The procedure for the collection of debt is the same for old scheme and new scheme cases. If a change of circumstances, which results in an alteration to the debt balance of a case, is processed the Agency will recalculate the debt balance and contact the non-resident parent to negotiate a new payment arrangement. Under the Operational Improvement Plan, the Agency aim where possible to recoup any outstanding arrears within two years, once a payment schedule has been established. However, the Collections and Enforcement Regulations, 1992 prevent the Agency from taking more than 40% of a non-resident parent's net income in child maintenance payments, and all arrears agreements reflect this requirement.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the data for levels of child poverty to be available for *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [136736]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Data for 2005-06 are available in the Households Below Average Income 2005-06 publication. This is currently being revised and the new release will be available from mid-May.

The Secretary of State made a written statement to Parliament on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 20WS, on why the statistics are being revised.

Households Below Average Income 2006-07 will be published in spring 2008.

Financial Assistance Scheme: Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in bonuses to staff of the Financial Assistance Scheme in each of the last two years; and how many individual payments were made. [133899]

James Purnell: The Department operates a number of different bonus and awards schemes, two of which apply to staff at the Financial Assistance Scheme.

Based on the information available, the total sum of bonuses paid to staff of the Financial Assistance Scheme in each of the last two years is as provided in the following tables. The bonuses are all subject to tax at standard individual rates. (Figures quoted as gross values).

The Bonus and Rewards Scheme allows managers to incentivise and reward valuable or exceptional contributions to business performance made by employees or teams:

Bonus type/Date	*Total amount paid out (gross) (£)*	*Number of staff receiving payments*
Bonus and Rewards Scheme—2006	3,450	24
Bonus and Rewards Scheme—2007	3,650	25

Annual individual performance bonuses are paid to members of staff as part of the annual pay award. Individuals who achieve one of the top 3 (of 4) performance ratings under the department's Performance and Development System are eligible for these unconsolidated bonuses, which are paid on a sliding scale:

Bonus type/Date	*Total amount paid out (gross) (£)*	*Number of staff receiving payments*
Annual Individual Performance Bonuses—2006	19,772	66

The Individual Performance Bonus for staff during the last financial year has not yet been finalised so we are currently unable to confirm any amounts for this period.

Pensions: Females

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what delays are being experienced with pension forecasts for women who become 60 in May and June this year. [136692]

James Purnell: We are currently not experiencing delays in issuing State Pension forecasts to our customers. Forecasts are issued within 12 working days of request, except in a relatively small number of cases that require further investigation of the customer's National Insurance Contributions records by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to ensure an accurate forecast.

Tax Credit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* persons in the UK who are in receipt of both tax credits and one or more income-related benefit. [137512]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Households and persons in the UK who are in receipt of both tax credits and one or more income-related benefit

	Number
Households	940,000
Persons	790,000

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.
2. The Family Resources Survey (FRS) is a nationally representative sample of approximately 28,000 households.
3. Data for 2005-06 was collected between April 2005 and March 2006.
4. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
5. Tax credit and income related benefits receipt is under-reported on the FRS. This will mean that the FRS estimates are likely to be under-estimates. However, there is no other reliable source for this information at a household level.

Source:

Family Resources Survey 2005-06 United Kingdom

Winter Fuel Payments: West Bromwich

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in West Bromwich East constituency received winter fuel payments, in each of the last three years. [136723]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

West Bromwich East constituency

	Household payments made
2004-05	13,085
2005-06	13,050
2006-07	12,980

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. Any residence found to have four or more occupants aged 60 and over is not included in the household figures as it is assumed to be a care home.
4. Figures for 2006-07 refer only to the main payment run so they do not include the late payment run figures. We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 people in Great Britain paid in late payment runs (0.8 per cent. of all payments). Since most of the payment runs are to people who are not receiving another benefit from DWP and whose claims had not been received by the qualifying week, most are men aged 60 to 64.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders were found guilty of *(a)* drunken and disorderly behaviour and *(b)* drunken and aggravated behaviour in (i) England, (ii) Bury St. Edmunds constituency, (iii) Suffolk, (iv) Bedfordshire, (v) Cambridgeshire, (vi) Essex, (vii) Hertfordshire and (viii) Norfolk in each year since 1997. [134686]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for simple and aggravated drunkenness offences in (i) England, (iii) Suffolk, (iv) Bedfordshire, (v) Cambridgeshire, (vi) Essex, (vii) Hertfordshire, (viii) Norfolk police force area, 1997-2005 can be viewed in the following table.

In addition, under the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme, the police can issue a fixed penalty of £80 to a person for being drunk and disorderly. The number of PNDs issued for the offence are also included in the table.

From the court proceedings database it is not possible to identify those offenders in the Bury St. Edmunds constituency, as the data are not collected at this level of detail.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for drunkenness simple and drunkenness aggravated offences in (i) England, (iii) Suffolk, (iv) Bedfordshire, (v) Cambridgeshire, (vi) Essex, (vii) Hertfordshire, (viii) Norfolk police force area,1997-2005[1, 2], and penalty notices for disorder issued in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006[3]

Forcelarea	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Drunkenness, simple										
Bedfordshire	62	153	99	55	29	24	53	26	41	[redacted]
Cambridgeshire	40	35	40	48	53	51	69	48	52	[4]—
Essex	200	185	140	125	99	44	11	15	6	[4]—
Hertfordshire	20	47	59	38	29	18	19	18	14	[4]—
Norfolk	65	71	70	61	68	66	77	48	46	[4]—
Suffolk	109	92	99	72	54	61	64	87	32	[4]—
England	3,333	3,710	3,134	2,579	2,424	2,201	1,999	1,674	1,436	[4]—
Drunkenness, with aggravation										
Bedfordshire	145	186	199	163	161	170	188	101	73	[4]—
Cambridgeshire	100	126	137	134	136	137	176	156	153	[4]—
Essex	422	389	453	472	438	346	180	188	164	[4]—
Hertfordshire	251	296	348	340	358	445	401	318	223	[4]—
Norfolk	102	111	113	137	140	140	172	82	54	[4]—
Suffolk	254	194	197	202	244	301	317	293	198	[4]—
England	22,474	23,864	22,764	22,078	21,468	22,741	23,893	17,550	13,199	[4]—
Penalty notices for disorder										
Bedfordshire										
Drunk and disorderly behaviour	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	144	265	293
Drunk in a highway	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	13	43	14

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for drunkenness simple and drunkenness aggravated offences in (i) England, (iii) Suffolk, (iv) Bedfordshire, (v) Cambridgeshire, (vi) Essex, (vii) Hertfordshire, (viii) Norfolk police force area,1997-2005[1, 2], and penalty notices for disorder issued in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006[3]

Forcelarea	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cambridgeshire										
Drunk and disorderly behaviour	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	189	357	260
Drunk in a highway	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	34	90	67
Essex										
Drunk and disorderly behaviour	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	714	634	859
Drunk in a highway	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	24	38	33
Hertfordshire										
Drunk and disorderly behaviour	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	208	319	207
Drunk in a highway	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9	30	15
Norfolk										
Drunk and disorderly behaviour	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	79	93	88
Drunk in a highway	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	34	56	24
Suffolk										
Drunk and disorderly behaviour	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	267	377	345
Drunk in a highway	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	35	27	26
England										
Drunk and disorderly behaviour	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	25,591	34,896	39,774
Drunk in a highway	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2,387	2,930	2,387

* = figures not applicable, as penalty notices were not introduced until 2004.
[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, police forces, and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] 2006 PND (Penalty Notices for Disorder) data are provisional.
[4] Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Antisocial Behaviour: Bus Services

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of offences relating to throwing stones or other missiles at buses in each of the last five years. [137406]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Statistics collected centrally do not separately identify an offence of throwing stones or other missiles at buses from other criminal offences.

Children: Abuse

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to require web hosting companies to review their commitments to ensure abusive images of children are removed from the internet; and if he will make a statement. [131975]

Mr. Coaker: The Government remain committed to ensuring that websites with child abuse content cannot be accessed from within the UK through any Internet Service Provider (ISP).

We continue to work very closely with the ISP industry as they put in place blocking mechanisms to restrict access to those websites identified by the Internet Watch Foundation, as well as to exploring other options to prevent access to illegal images of child abuse.

The Government have set a target for every ISP to support the blocking mechanism by the end of 2007.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Criminal Records Bureau checks as a child protection measure. [137235]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* Analysis from a recent independent poll indicates that the CRB is making a real difference to the protection of children and vulnerable adults; in the last three years, 60,000 unsuitable people have had offers of employment which involved working with children and vulnerable adults withdrawn on the basis of information contained on their Disclosure. This analysis also demonstrates that users of the Criminal Records Bureau's (CRB) service feel that the information provided on Disclosures useful when making recruitment decisions.

The research, conducted by IPSOS MORI, shows that customer satisfaction levels are at an all-time high, reflecting the year-on-year improvements made by the CRB.

The National Audit Office (NAO) produced a report in 2004 (Criminal Records Bureau, Delivering Safer Recruitment?) in which it noted that CRB did not measure the impact that it had on society, whether it reduced crimes against the vulnerable or reduced the fear of crime. Following a CRB Internal Audit report in 2006, a proposal was put forward to adopt a system of outcome measures, which the CRB are currently exploring, that will be used to determine further the effectiveness of the CRB's service in terms of child and vulnerable adult protection.

Fingerprints: EC Countries

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of proposals for a centralised EU database of fingerprints; what estimate has been made of the *(a)* set up costs and *(b)* annual running costs of the database; and if he will make a statement. [137518]

Joan Ryan: The Government believe that cross-border information exchange is fundamental to the fight against organised crime and terrorism and have therefore supported various EU initiatives to improve the exchange of information between member states. This includes a proposal currently under negotiation to facilitate the electronic exchange of data on fingerprints, DNA and vehicle registration between member states, known as the Prüm Council Decision.

The Government have doubts however about the need for a centralised EU fingerprint database as suggested by the European Commission in its Annual Policy Strategy Communication for 2008. In particular, the Government will be looking to the Commission for a clear assessment of what added value this would bring to the Prüm Council Decision.

The European Commission has yet to present the detail of its proposal, without which the Government cannot undertake a cost assessment. However, the Government have estimated that the start up costs for implementation of the Prüm Council Decision would be around £31 million. This includes running costs for the first year, which would be around £2.5 million. The Government believe that this is justified by the practical benefits to be gained from the enhanced information sharing arrangements.

Leyhill Prison

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are held at HMP Leyhill; and how many are *(a)* Category D prisoners and *(b)* Category C prisoners. [135940]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

There were 399 prisoners detained at HMP Leyhill on 31 March 2007. All were Category D prisoners.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 2 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms J Mann. [137329]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to my right hon. Friend's letter sent on behalf of his constituent Ms J Mann on 15 May 2007.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of knife crime offences in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [131274]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of persons found guilty for offences related to the illegal sale and marketing of knives, and to the possession of knives in a public place without good reason in the areas of *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the North East government office region and England and Wales for the years requested are provided in the table.

Data for the Jarrow constituency are not available as data broken down to constituency level are not collected centrally.

Information for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences related to the illegal sale, marketing and possession of knives in selected areas and England and Wales, 1997-2005[1, 2, 3]

Area/region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
South Tyneside magistrates court	6	11	14	6	21	23	12	22	36
North East local government office region	134	162	180	185	230	316	317	360	376
England and Wales[4]	3,363	3,808	3,543	3,531	4,326	5,306	5,346	5,827	6,025

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes data for offences related to the illegal possession, sale and marketing of knives.

[4] Data excludes figures for West Mercia police force area for the offence of possession of a knife or bladed article on school premises, due to a reporting error for this offence at the courts in that area.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of carrying a knife in a public place in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year since 1997. [134679]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of people found guilty at all courts for the offence of carrying a knife in a public place in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire, and *(f)* Norfolk police force area 1997-2005 can be viewed in the following table.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for the offences of carrying a knife in a public place, and having an article with blade or point on school premises in Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, and Norfolk police force area 1997-2005[1, 2, 3, 4]

Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Bedfordshire	24	36	23	40	32	40	57	68	78
Cambridgeshire	24	35	31	15	27	46	34	62	57
Essex	85	97	96	100	99	103	146	201	176
Hertfordshire	31	29	28	27	25	53	83	84	92
Norfolk	29	50	46	36	41	59	69	70	69
Suffolk	31	22	26	30	31	61	52	68	69
Total	224	269	250	248	255	362	441	553	541

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Includes the following:

[3] Statute: Criminal Justice Act 1988 s.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 s.3. Offence description: Having an article with blade or point in public place.

[4] Statute: Criminal Justice Act 1988 s.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 s.4(1). Offence description: Having an article with blade or point on school premises.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officers left the police force in each of the last 10 years. [137169]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are from 1997-98 onwards and are given in the following table. These data are taken from the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" published annually containing data correct as at 31 March; the bulletins can be downloaded from the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbarchive.html

Police officer leavers from England and Wales forces from 1997-98 to 2005-06

	Officer leavers	Officer strength	Percentage leavers
1997-98[1]	6,657	124,798	5.3
1998-99[1]	6,104	123,841	4.9
1999-2000[1]	5,948	121,956	4.9
2000-01[1]	5,849	123,313	4.7
2001-02[1]	6,420	127,267	5.0
2002-03[2]	7,783	132,509	5.9
2003-04[2]	7,139	138,468	5.2
2004-05[2]	7,367	141,059	5.2
2005-06[2, 3]	8,773	141,523	6.2

[1] Wastage comprises retirements, resignations, dismissals, deaths and transfers to police forces outside England and Wales.
[2] Not comparable to previous wastage figures as data do not include transfers to other England and Wales forces and officers leaving after a period of secondment.
[3] Over 1,000 police officers previously working with the National Crime Squad (NCS) and the National Criminal Intelligence Squad (NCIS) left their home force to join the Serious Organised Crime Agency when it vested on 1 April 2006.

Police: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to change the way that police pay is determined; and if he will make a statement. [136701]

Mr. McNulty: In November 2006, I announced the Home Secretary's intention to review police pay arrangements and that he had asked Sir Clive Booth to undertake this review. The first part of Sir Clive Booth's review has now reported entitled "Fair Pay for Police Officers". The report makes a number of recommendations which we are considering and consulting with police stakeholders. Sir Clive Booth will report back with part two of his review in the autumn of this year.

Police: Petrol

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the total cost of petrol consumption by police forces in England and Wales. [137170]

Mr. McNulty: The information for all police forces in England and Wales is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Training

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police authority in England and Wales spent on training *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* special constables in each of the last 10 years. [137171]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 May 2007]:* Data on the annual cost of training for police officers, police community support officer and special constables are not centrally held.

Funding for police training is largely a matter for individual chief constables and police authorities and is reviewed on an annual basis.

Prisoners Release: Overcrowding

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government has to introduce new measures to release offenders from prison early to ease prison overcrowding. [136179]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to answer.

The Ministry of Justice is not currently planning to release offenders early. We are dealing with pressures on the prison estate by building more capacity. We will always ensure that there will be prison places for those serious, sexual and seriously persistent offenders who ought to be in prison.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the capital value is of each prison establishment; and if he will make a statement. [134599]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The capital values are provided in the table. The values are provided on the basis of depreciated replacement cost as at 31 March 2007 and are subject to audit. Staff quarters and leasehold premises are not included.

Description	*Net value (£)*
Acklington	46,332,111
Albany	31,518,949
Altcourse	75,918,408
Ashfield	28,568,404
Ashwell	21,747,314
Askham Grange	9,863,329
Aylesbury	59,268,669
Bedford	25,582,875
Belmarsh	171,495,075
Birmingham	79,355,715
Blakenhurst	93,979,898
Blantyre House	7,568,071
Blundestone	15,848,251
Brinsford	42,707,021
Bristol	22,578,274
Brixton	26,473,660
Brockhill	12,124,512
Bronzefield	88,291,525
Buckley Hall	50,123,967
Bullingdon	78,768,726
Bullwood Hall	11,750,983
Camp Hill	24,451,469
Canterbury	13,674,375
Cardiff	45,709,863
Castington	30,828,819
Channings Wood	31,536,459
Chelmsford	44,798,512
Coldingly	30,060,574
Cookham Wood	23,536,120
Dartmoor	192,811
Deerbolt	36,602,665
Doncaster	102,290,525
Dorchester	7,770,339
Dovegate	68,711,433
Dover	23,821,710
Downview	58,756,736
Drake Hall	17,079,128
Durham	48,513,133
East Button Park	7,737,527
Eastwood Park	12,845,021
Edmunds Hill	5,067,790
Elmley	87,019,481
Erlestoke	15,928,582
Everthorpe	49,845,326
Exeter	20,763,043
Featherstone	26,981,373
Feltham	103,084,680
Ford	37,224,748

Description	Net value (£)
Forest Bank	54,055,436
Foston Hall	18,428,839
Frankland	90,689,443
Full Sutton	75,354,930
Garth	57,844,453
Gartree	39,591,309
Glen Parva	57,661,725
Gloucester	11,932,343
Grendon	34,712,880
Guys Marsh	26,425,078
Haslar	10,579,634
Haverigg	27,756,389
Hewel Grange	10,850,142
Highdown	93,842,150
Highpoint	59,501,461
Hindley	42,818,306
Hollesley Bay	32,188,102
Holloway	65,476,031
Holme House	85,251,241
Hull	58,628,517
Huntercombe	27,757,823
Kingston	19,791,104
Kirkham	33,066,038
Kirklevington	14,524,971
Lancaster Cstl	193,572
Lancaster Farms	84,722,100
Latchmere House	16,906,432
Leeds	51,747,123
Leicester	10,274,997
Lewes	26,759,503
Leyhill	32,828,384
Lincoln	33,431,537
Lindholme	99,602,044
Littlehey	50,092,386
Liverpool	58,498,419
Long Lartin	51,515,938
Low Newton	19,928,429
Lowdham Grange	40,609,263
Maidstone	38,982,200
Manchester	70,191,561
Moorland	112,568,853
Morton Hall	22,615,999
Mount (The)	67,824,889
New Hall	37,660,792
North Sea Camp	7,544,216
Northallerton	9,845,494
Norwich	40,834,331
Nottingham	53,376,517
Onley	37,399,104
Parc	82,278,453
Parkhurst	38,929,339
Pentonville	57,340,542
Peterborough	74,795,842
Portland	46,838,429
Preston	43,636,167
Ranby	65,754,997
Reading	13,111,484
Risley	77,436,138
Rochester	24,730,391
Rye Hill	53,041,853
Send	20,288,844
Shepton Mallet	13,742,039
Shrewsbury	9,808,533
Stafford	21,232,913
Standford Hill	37,322,882
Stocken	48,173,843
Stoke Heath	31,127,056
Styal	24,900,639
Sudbury	24,617,551
Swaleside	69,580,254
Swansea	12,987,697
Swinfen Hall	51,004,678
The Wolds	45,436,490
Thorn Cross	31,138,336
Usk	16,774,367
Verne (The)	21,116,226
Wakefield	61,613,064
Wandsworth	61,496,943
Warren Hill	1,728,450
Wayland	52,590,634
Wealstun	79,705,460
Weare (The)	792,489
Wellingborough	43,693,879
Werrington	11,514,007
Wetherby	30,787,884
Whatton	39,741,054
Whitemoor	86,736,990
Winchester	33,791,090
Woodhill	137,246,802
Wormwood Scrubs	119,655,521
Wymott	59,674,923
Total	5,979,295,600

Sentencing

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were sentenced for public protection in each of the last five years; and how many have been released. [135779]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Public protection sentences were first provided in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and implemented for relevant offences committed on or after four April 2005.

The numbers[1] of male prisoners received into prisons in England and Wales under indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) were 670 in 2005-06 and 1,670 in 2006-07. The numbers[1] of female prisoners were 30 in 2005-06 and 40 in 2006-07. There have been three male and two female prisoners released from IPP sentences up to April 2007. The reliability of the data on the numbers received and released under the extended sentence for public protection (EPP) is not sufficiently robust for publication. It is not possible to distinguish sentences made on the basis of public protection before this date.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

[1] Rounded to nearest 10.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many indefinite sentences of public protection have been handed down in each month since their introduction. [135846]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Figures on the numbers of prisoners received into prisons in England and Wales under indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) by each month since their introduction can be found in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Number of IPP receptions into prison by month since their introduction[1]

Month	*Number*
April 2005	0
May 2005	0
June 2005	20
July 2005	30
August 2005	40
September 2005	60
October 2005	90
November 2005	70
December 2005	60
January 2006	80
February 2006	100
March 2006	130
April 2006	100
May 2006	120
June 2006	110
July 2006	140
August 2006	140
September 2006	150
October 2006	120
November 2006	180
December 2006	190
January 2007	140
February 2007	150
March 2007	160
Total	2,450

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 10.

Terrorism

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether legislation in respect of the prevention of terrorism constitutes criminal justice legislation and falls within his Department. [136956]

Mr. McNulty: All counter-terrorism legislation will remain the responsibility of the Home Office. However, the Department will continue to work closely on all aspects of counter terrorism legislation with other Government Departments, including the Ministry of Justice.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the recent increase in charges to owners for recovery of stolen cars. [137507]

Mr. Coaker: There has been no recent increase to the changes prescribed by statute to be paid by the owners of vehicles removed by the police under their powers to remove any vehicle that is illegally, obstructively or dangerously parked, or broken down or abandoned. This includes vehicles abandoned after being stolen. The charges help meet the cost of the removal and subsequent storage.

We are currently consulting on possible changes to these charges and have not yet reached any conclusions. The consultation document is available on the Home Office website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/haveyoursay/current-consultation

Vetting: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under-18-year-olds have had Criminal Records Bureau checks. [137234]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* Since the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) launched its Disclosure service in March 2002, 412,902 Disclosures have been issued to applicants under the age of 18.

Wiltshire Police Authority: Pensions

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the current pension fund deficit is of Wiltshire police authority. [136607]

Mr. McNulty: Police authorities now operate a separate pensions account into which are paid officers' contributions and an employer's contribution (currently 24.6 per cent. of pensionable pay) and out of which pension payments are made. Wiltshire police authority has recently provided the Home Office with its unaudited accounts for 2006-07 which show a £3,066,000 deficit in their pensions account. In November 2006, Wiltshire police authority estimated a deficit of £3,296,000 in their pensions account for the 2007-08 financial year. Under the new system of funding for police pensions, any deficit in an authority's pensions account is reimbursed with a grant from central Government each year; any surplus is recouped.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Standards

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Department has set any performance targets. [119970]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to my Office's annual report, which was published today. Copies are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Post Office

Bob Russell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on how many occasions in the last 12 months he has chaired meetings to consider issues relating to the future of the Post Office network. [136143]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I meet regularly with colleagues to discuss a range of issues.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cabinet Committees

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list the Cabinet Committees of which she is a member in her capacity as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. [136660]

Hilary Armstrong: My membership of Cabinet Committees reflects the full range of my responsibilities. I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's written ministerial statements on Cabinet Committees 14 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 37-40WS and 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 102WS.

Disadvantaged: Health Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the proposed trials of new evidence-based assessment tools for use by midwives and health visitors mentioned in her progress report on social exclusion will take place; and if she will make a statement. [137534]

Mr. McFadden: Evidence-based assessment by midwives and health visitors is part of the Health Led Parenting Pilots which went live in 10 sites across England in April 2007. The Government have commissioned a report by Professor Sir David Hall on risk factors as part of these pilots which is due to be published shortly. Findings from Professor Hall's study have informed the different eligibility criteria and pathways onto the programme being trialled and evaluated as part of the Health Led Parenting Pilot Project.

Domestic Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) when she last visited land controlled by the Duchy; [136662]

(2) if she will list her public engagements for the week beginning 4 June. [136636]

Hilary Armstrong: I have attended a number of public events and regional visits relating to the full range of my Ministerial responsibilities.

Ministers meet many individuals and organisations and attend many public events relating to Government business, and as part of the process of policy development.

Impact Assessments

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in what ways impact assessments will differ from regulatory impact assessments. [137092]

Mr. McFadden: Following a public consultation, on 2 April 2007 the Government announced the introduction of a new Impact Assessment (IA) to replace the previous Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) process.

Details of the new IA, including changes from the RIA process, can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/ria/in3ex.asp

Key changes include:

A revised template aimed at improving clarity and transparency of IAs. This includes new requirements to more clearly summarise the rationale for government intervention and the evidence supporting the proposals.

A strengthened ministerial declaration that will bolster the quality of the analysis in IAs and help embed this earlier in the policy making process.

An increased emphasis on post-implementation review—the need for this existing requirement is featured on the front page of the new IA template.

Improved analysis of the impact on businesses and the third sector, with an indication of the estimated annual cost per organisation of the policy option for micro, small, medium and large organizations, and requiring policy makers to consider whether micro and small businesses should be exempted from the regulation.

The new process is being phased in—IAs in the new format will appear in public consultations from mid-May and, from November 2007, we expect that all IAs will use the new format.

Local Better Regulation Office

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the budget is for the Local Better Regulation Office in each year between 2007 and 2012; [136657]

(2) how much her Department expects to spend on the establishment of the Local Better Regulation Office. [136656]

Mr. McFadden: The Local Better Regulation Office's (LBRO) key role will be to reduce burdens on business without compromising regulatory outcomes and working in partnership with local authorities, national regulators and departments to drive up the quality of local authority regulatory services. As a result of LBRO's activities the Government expect to see compliant businesses benefiting from a regulatory regime that is less burdensome, more consistent, more coordinated and better targeted.

The Treasury has allocated the Cabinet Office £2.7 million for 2007-08; and provisionally £5.3 million for 2008-09; £4.4 million for 2009-10 and £4.4 million for 2010-11 to set up and fund the Local Better Regulation Office. The budget for 2011-12 has not yet been established.

Expenditure establishing the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) is expected to be in the region of £325,000 (ex VAT).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Local Better Regulation Office will continue to operate after 2012. [136658]

Mr. McFadden: The Local Better Regulation Office's (LBRO) key role will be to reduce burdens on business without compromising regulatory outcomes and working in partnership with local authorities, national regulators and departments to drive up the quality of local authority regulatory services. As a result of LBRO's activities the Government expect to see compliant businesses benefiting from a regulatory

regime that is less burdensome, more consistent, more coordinated and better targeted.

It is anticipated that at some point in the future the LBRO's work will be complete. The Government proposals regarding the circumstances under which the LBRO might be dissolved is included in a consultation document for the Draft Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill the Government published on 15 May 2007.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, (1) what steps her Department is taking to assist the Local Better Regulation Office in improving the performance of local authority regulatory services; [136668]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to assist the Local Better Regulation Office in making regulation simpler. [136671]

Mr. McFadden: The role of the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) is to reduce burdens on business without compromising regulatory outcomes and working in partnership with local authorities, national regulators and departments to drive up the quality of local authority regulatory services.

The Cabinet Office has played a key role in the development of the LBRO including the recruitment of the Board and Chief Executive and securing the office space. My Department provide LBRO with access to a breadth of better regulation experience and expertise. They will continue to provide such advice and assistance but, as the LBRO Board formally take up their appointments, LBRO will take on responsibility for the development of their own organisational structure and policies.

In addition, on 15 May 2007 the Government published a consultation document which set out in detail its proposals regarding the role of the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) including its role in helping to improve the performance of local authority regulatory services and making regulation simpler.

HEALTH

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the number of people suffering from cancer who have been denied drugs on account of their cost; and if she will make a statement. [137411]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 May 2007]:* The Department has not made an estimate of the type requested.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, an independent body, was set up to make decisions on the clinical and cost effectiveness of technologies based on the latest evidence. It determines whether a drug is sufficiently effective to justify the cost in the context of a finite health budget. A report published by the National Cancer Director last year, "Uptake of NICE approved cancer drugs", confirmed that the uptake of new cancer drugs by the national health service increases and variation in use around the country reduces following a positive NICE appraisal.

The Department has reiterated in recent good practice guidance that the NHS should not withhold funding for treatments just because NICE guidance is not available. In this instance, primary care trusts should make their decisions based on the available evidence.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the cost of drugs prescribed to treat cancer was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [137412]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 May 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1594W.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of regional variations in England in the treatment of cancer, with particular reference to the prescribing of drugs; and if she will make a statement. [137413]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 May 2007]:* In June 2004, Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director published 'Variations in usage of cancer drugs approved by NICE'. This report showed that a positive appraisal of a cancer drug by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) was usually followed by increased overall usage of that drug but that there was variation in usage of NICE approved drugs between cancer networks.

In July 2006, Professor Richards published a follow-up report, 'Usage of cancer drugs approved by NICE', to confirm if the variations identified had been reduced. This report showed improvements with a continued increase in uptake of cancer drugs following a positive NICE appraisal (a 47 per cent. increase in cancer drug use since the last review) and a reduction in variation between cancer networks in usage of all NICE approved cancer drugs.

Both these reports are available in the Library.

Clacton Hospital

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has been informed of plans to shut the Peter Bruff Ward in Clacton hospital. [136604]

Andy Burnham: Any decision regarding the closure of the Peter Bruff Ward at Clacton hospital is a matter for the local national health service, which has the responsibility for the configuration and delivery of local services, working in partnership with the communities it serves.

Colorectal Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will take steps to make Cetuximab available to patients on the NHS for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer; [137638]

(2) if she will direct Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust to make Cetuximab available to Mr. T. Booth of Chorley constituency. [137639]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On 24 January 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued guidance to the national health service on the use of Cetuximab for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer.

NICE'S guidance did not recommend Cetuximab as a treatment option for metastatic colorectal cancer. However, the guidance states that patients who were receiving Cetuximab should have the option to continue to do so until they and their consultants decide that it is the right time to stop treatment.

It will be for individual primary care trusts to decide whether to fund Cetuximab for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer in the light of NICE'S recommendations. It would be inappropriate for ministers to intervene.

Departmental Artwork

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on artwork by her Department in each year since 1997-98 [118163]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not purchased any artwork in the period since 1997-98.

Departmental Restructuring

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to her Department was of commissioning an external consultant to undertake an equality impact assessment on departmental restructuring; and what conclusions were reached. [115726]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 placed a duty on all public authorities to address issues of racial inequality. The Department is a public authority under the meaning of this Act and is required by law to undertake race equality impact assessments. One such assessment was carried out by an external contractor to ensure independence and impartiality in 2004-05 at a cost of £10,125 to the Department following its major change programme of 2003-04. This assessed the impact of a significant restructuring programme across the whole Department. The conclusions are summarised in an executive summary, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The Department continues to take action to ensure an ongoing commitment to equality is embedded within the organisation.

Departments: Press

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press briefings have been held by her Department since May 2005; what the subject of each press briefing was; and whether representatives of *(a)* the *Daily Mail*, *(b)* the *Daily Express* and *(c)* *The Daily Telegraph* were invited in each case. [123124]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been 67 press briefings on a range of subjects since May 2005 and these are listed as follows. In each case, an operational note was sent to news organisations inviting them to the briefing. This includes representatives of *The Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail* and *Daily Express*.

	Subjects
May 2005	Heart operations
	Launch of Care Record Guarantee
June 2005	Briefing by Committee of Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment
	Press briefing on the launch of smoking consultation
	Latest MRSA rates published
	New NHS anti smoking ad campaign launched
	New era for NHS ambulance services
July 2005	New statutory hygiene code and Legislative proposals for Action Health on Health Care Associated Infections In England
	New statutory hygiene code and inspection regime for NHS
	Chief Medical Officer publishes annual report
	vCJD and blood donation
August 2005	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act
October 2005	New pay agreement for cleaners, caterers, and porters
	NHS Redress Bill
	Health Work and Wellbeing Strategy
	Revised contingency plans for pandemic flu
	Pandemic preparedness
	Your Health, Your Care, Your Say
	Health Bill
November 2005	Faster drugs guidance for the NHS
	Proposals for a new role—Medical Care Practitioners (MCPs)
December 2005	Publication of Chief Executives Report to the NHS
	Choice in the NHS
January 2006	Community health and care services white paper
February 2006	MRSA statistics
	Childhood immunisation programme
	Good Corporate Citizenship Self-assessment Model
March 2006	Mental health legislation
	Pay Awards for NHS Staff
April 2006	New dental contract
	Older people's National Service Framework
	Ment Health Nursing
	Small Change Big Difference
May 2006	Reconfiguration of Primary Care Trusts and Ambulance Trusts
June 2006	Junior doctor training
	National Programme for IT in the NHS
	Investment in the new generation of community hospitals
	Seasonal flu vaccine
July 2006	Cash boost for community hospitals
	Tackling hidden waiting lists
	Review of doctors' regulation
	Payment by Results
	Chief Medical Officer Publishes Fifth Annual Report
August 2006	Reform plans for pathology services

	Subjects
September 2006	New work programme to reduce the number of ineffective treatments in the NHS
	Seasonal flu vaccine
October 2006	Health Challenge England
	Know Your Limits alcohol harm reduction campaign
	NHS efficiency
November 2006	Sexual health campaign
	Mental health bill
	Future regulation of health and adult social care
	New Practice Based Commissioning Guidance
	GP patient survey
December 2006	NHS chief executive to set out blueprint for 2007-08
	Revised law on assisted reproduction
	Electronic care record
	HOOK campaign
	18 week target
January 2007	Seasonal flu vaccination
February 2007	GP services
	Children's and maternity services
	Professional regulation white paper and response to 5th Shipman inquiry
	White paper on regulation of health professionals—pharmacy aspects
	New second hand smoke ad campaign
March 2007	NHS pay awards

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she attended the financial and risk management seminars offered to Ministers by the National School of Government for 2006. [133653]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State did not attend the 2006 financial and risk management seminars. Two Ministers of State attended to represent the Department.

Food Standards Agency: Prosecutions

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the companies which have been prosecuted by the Food Standards Agency since 2001 in respect of which no further legal proceedings are active; what the reasons were for prosecution in each case; and what penalty was imposed. [136879]

Caroline Flint: *[holding answer 14 May 2007]*: The following is a list of the companies that have been successfully prosecuted by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) since the end of 2001 in respect of which no further legal proceedings are active, the legislation under which the companies were prosecuted and the penalties which were imposed.

Convictions since 1 January 2002 following prosecutions brought by the FSA

Date of hearing	*Plant operator*	*Legislation*	*Fine (£)*	*Costs (£)*
28 January 2002	Harvey Ashworth (Manchester) Ltd.	Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997	500.00	500.00
16 October 2002	Yorkshire Poultry Products Ltd.	Food Safety Act 1990	6,000.00	2,705.15
6 November 2002	Jack Brand Ltd.	Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	4,000.00	11,043.00
16 December 2002	J and B Fitton Ltd.	Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997	4,000.00	4,900.00
1 April 2003	Stockton Butchers Slaughtering Company Ltd.	(a) Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997; (b) TSE (England) Regulations 2002	15,000.00	5,000.00
17 April 2003	A and G Barber Ltd.	(a) Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997; b) TSE (England) Regulations 2002	5,000.00	750.00
15 July 2003	H Lyes and Son Ltd.	(a) Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995;(b) Food Safety Act 1990	3,000.00	3,664.14
1 September 2003	Kashmir Halal Meats	Food Safety Act 1990	1,000.00	1,144.44
18 September 2003	Woolley Bros. Ltd.	Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	1,500.00	800.00
9 October 2003	Frigoscandia Distribution	Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	1,000.00	1,552.10
10 December 2003	Kedassia Poultry Ltd.	Food Safety Act 1990	1,000.00	2,559.17
7 January 2004	A P Burlton (Farms) Ltd.	Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	0.00	800.00
9 February 2004	D J Andrews (Wholesale Meats) Ltd.	(a) Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995; (b) Food Safety Act 1990	1,500.00	2,428.10
23 February 2004	A and G Barber Ltd.	Food Safety Act 1990	15,000.00	6,222.58
3 March 2004	Yorkshire Poultry Products Ltd.	Food Safety Act 1990	1,500.00	500.00

Convictions since 1 January 2002 following prosecutions brought by the FSA

Date of hearing	*Plant operator*	*Legislation*	*Fine (£)*	*Costs (£)*
29 March 2004	Yorkshire Poultry Products Ltd.	Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	5,500.00	1,645.00
18 May 2004	G Lawrence Wholesale Meat Company Ltd.	Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	3,750.00	1,500.00
20 May 2004	Woodhead Brothers Meat Company	TSE (England) Regulations 2002	1,500.00	1,000.00
21 May 2004	Al-Ummah Halal Poultry Ltd.	Food Safety Act 1990	3,000.00	2,000.00
22 June 2004	Gee and Webb Ltd.	Food Safety Act 1990	26,000.00	4,494.48
24 September 2004	Machin Yorkshire Lamb Ltd.	Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	10,000.00	3,000.00
6 December 2004	Al-Ummah Halal Poultry Ltd.	Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	[1]—	890.50
23 March 2005	Traditional Norfolk Poultry Ltd.	Animal By-Product (Identification) Regulations 1995	1,000.00	5,377.16
16 May 2005	B'ackwell Fresh Poultry Ltd.	(a) Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995;(b) Food Safety Act 1990	1,750.00	1,509.25
20 May 2005	Kedassia Poultry Ltd.	Food Safety Act 1990	2,250.00	0.00
2 June 2005	Harvey Ashworth (Manchester) Ltd.	TSE (England) Regulations 2002	750.00	750.00
6 June 2005	Grove Smith (Turkeys) Ltd.	(a) Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995;(b) Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981	27,800.00	4,600.00
29 June 2005	Yorkshire Poultry Products Ltd.	Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	5,000.00	5,000.00
1 September 2005	2 Sisters Premier Division Ltd.	(a) Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995;(b) Minced Meat and Meat Preparations (Hygiene) Regulations 1995	17,000.00	8,834.90
27 September 2005	Pak Poultry Products Ltd.	(a) Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995; (b) Animal By-Product (Identification) Regulations 1995; (c) Food Safety Act 1990	2,000.00	1,347.45
7 October 2005	Jackson's Wholesale Meat Suppliers Ltd.	Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	900.00	150.00
28 October 2005	NJG Halal Slaughtering Ltd.	(a) Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995; (b) TSE (England) Regulations 2002	1,380.00	0.00
7 November 2005	J H Lambert (Bungay) Ltd.	(a) Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995; (b) Food Safety Act 1990	4,000.00	3,481.00
29 November 2005	Worcester Wholesale Meat Company Ltd.	Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	2,000.00	3,283.50
14 February 2006	C E Partridge and Son Ltd.	TSE (England) Regulations 2002	2,500.00	2,494.30
14 February 2006	Harvey Ashworth (Manchester) Ltd.	(a) Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995; (b) Food Safety Act 1990	3,000.00	2,500.00
15 March 2006	Frank Bird (Poultry) Ltd.	Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	2,500.00	7,197.95
21 March 2006	Saleh Brothers (Poultry Processors) Ltd.	Food Safety Act 1990	3,500.00	3,531.92
13 April 2006	West Scottish Lamb Ltd.	(a) Fresh Meat (Beef Controls) (No. 2) Regulations 1996; (b) Food Safety Act 1990	4,000.00	4,000.00
24 May 2006	HCF Poultry Ltd.	(a) Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995; (b) Animal By-Product (Identification) Regulations 1995	10,000.00	7,880.00
12 June 2006	Oakland Farms Ltd.	Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	[2]—	0.00

Convictions since 1 January 2002 following prosecutions brought by the FSA

Date of hearing	*Plant operator*	*Legislation*	*Fine (£)*	*Costs (£)*
14 August 2006	Pembrokeshire Meat Company Ltd.	(a) Fresh Meat (Beef Controls) (No. 2) Regulations 1996; b) Animal By-Product (Identification) Regulations 1995	3,000.00	3,500.00
31 August 2006	Leonard Ames (Ampthill) Ltd.	Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	1,800.00	2,071.49
	Paul Flatman Ltd.	Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	800.00	4,467.00
	West Devon Meat Ltd.	Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	1,000.00	5,892.69
	[redacted]hire Poultry Products Ltd.	(a) Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995; (b) Animal By-Products (Identification) Regulations 1995; (c) Food Safety Act 1990	10,750.00	4,000.00
	L Grant (Meat Wholesale) Ltd.	Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	1,000.00	1,000.00
	St Merryn Meat Ltd.	TSE (Wales) Regulations 2002	2,000.00	3,055.00
	M Najib and Sons Ltd.	TSE (England) Regulations 2002	3,500.00	5,100.00
	Coast and County Meat Supply Company Ltd.	TSE (England) Regulations 2002	[3]	3,140.00
	Gafoor Poultry Products Limited	Food Safety Act 1990	7,000.00	3,500.00
	Spenborough Abattoir Limited	(a) Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995; (b) Food Safety Act 1990	800.00	971.50
	A S Audhali Farm Gate Fresh Poultry Ltd.	(a) Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995; (b) Food Safety Act 1990	15,000.00	5,632.00
	West Devon Meat Ltd.	Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006	2,000.00	3,000.00

[1] Three year conditional discharge.
[2] Absolute discharge.
[3] Conditional discharge.

General Practitioners

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to encourage general practitioners to become GPs with a specialist interest; and if she will make a statement. [122814]

Andy Burnham: General Practitioners with special interests can make a valuable contribution to delivery of care closer to patients' homes. Decisions on their development, recruitment and training are local matters and the Department is supporting primary care trusts, most recently through the publication in April 2007 of 'Implementing care closer to home: Convenient quality care for patients', which sets out a process for accrediting such practitioners and the services that they deliver. Copies have been placed in the Library.

General Practitioners: West Bromwich

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner surgeries in West Bromwich East constituency *(a)* have and *(b)* have not been refurbished since 1997. [136710]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not routinely collect data relating to refurbishments of general practitioner surgeries. Therefore, not all the data requested is available centrally.

However, a data collection was set up to monitor performance against the targets to refurbish or replace up to 3,000 general practitioner premises and create 500 primary care centres by December 2004, as detailed in the NHS Plan (published in 2000). The relevant data from this collection are shown in the following table.

	Number of premises replaced		*Number of premises substantially refurbished*	
NHS organisation	*2000-02*[2]	*2003-05*[2]	*2000-02*[2]	*2003-05*[2]
Sandwell Health Authority[1]	2	n/a	0	n/a
Oldbury and Smethwick Primary Care Trust (PCT)	n/a	2	n/a	1
Rowley Regis and Tipton PCT	n/a	0	n/a	2
Wednesbury and West Bromwich PCT	n/a	2	n/a	1

[1] Sandwell health authority historically covered an area similar to that of the former Oldbury and Smethwick, Rowley Regis and Tipton, and Wednesbury and West Bromwich PCTs.
[2] Financial years, April to March.
Source:
DH central returns, SaFFR, LDPR

Health Professions: Employment

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress is being made on the implementation of the Social Partnership Forum

Action Plan for maximising employment opportunities for newly qualified health care professionals in a changing NHS in respect of *(a)* integrated work force development and planning, *(b)* retaining skills and knowledge, *(c)* health and wellbeing strategy, *(d)* capacity mapping, *(e)* occupational health and *(f)* managed migration; [137314]

(2) what progress is being made on the implementation of the recommendations of the Social Partnership Forum Action Plan for maximising employment opportunities for newly qualified health care professionals in a changing NHS on *(a)* the role of strategic health authorities, *(b)* the role of employers and *(c)* the role of higher education institutions. [137315]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Social Partnership Forum action plan was launched on 13 April 2007.

NHS Employers is responsible for monitoring progress against each of the action plan recommendations and will provide a report to the monthly meetings of the Social Partnership Forum Steering Group.

Health Services

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the long-term health impacts of effective access to secondary health care. [136396]

Andy Burnham: The long-term health benefits of effective access to secondary health care are long established. Changes to local services are matters for local national health service organisations. Significant changes to the configuration of local services should be subject to consultation.

Hospitals: Telephones

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what complaints she has received about Patientline; and if she will make a statement. [136147]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 409W.

Junior Doctors: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the additional interviews arranged for junior hospital doctor training posts will be completed; whether the interview timetable is likely to take longer than originally planned; and what the estimated cost is of the additional interviews arranged. [137681]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Offers will be made to successful candidates on a phased basis as interviews for each specialty are completed. Subject to the outcome of the current judicial review, the first offers for hospital specialities in England will be made on or after 21 May 2007, with all initial offers made by early June. This process of making offers will continue until late June 2007, at which time round one will close, ensuring that candidates and employers have time to prepare for appointments commencing on 1 August 2007. A complete estimate of the costs of the additional interviews has not been made.

Medical Equipment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made with the consultation on stoma care and urology care services; how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have responded; what account has been taken of the potential impact of change on users, with particular reference to proposals on the direct supply of appliances and ancilliary items; and if she will make a statement. [117970]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The consultation regarding the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services - to primary care is ongoing.

Three consultation papers closed on 2 April 2007; these were:

Arrangements for the reimbursement pricing of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff;

Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and

Proposed Amendments to the Regulatory Terms of Service of Pharmacy and Appliance

Contractors in relation to Dispensing Items Listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

The Department has received a significant level of response to these consultations. The majority of these responses were submitted by industry, dispensing appliance contractors, pharmacy contractors, clinicians, patient groups and individual patients.

As the consultation process is intended to enable interested parties to comment and put forward their points of view on departmental proposals and to provide information that may be relevant to final policy making decisions, the Department is considering all these responses very carefully.

However, an overriding objective continues to be the maintenance and where appropriate the improvement of patient care. This includes the direct supply of items and ancillary services.

Medical Treatments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the maximum cost of a quality-adjusted life year available through the NHS; [137734]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost per quality-adjusted life year of treating patients at high risk of coronary heart disease; and if she will make a statement. [137738]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) publishes information on the role of the cost per quality-adjusted life year (QALY) assessments in its "Guide to the Methods of Technology Appraisal", and indicates in each individual appraisal the range of cost per QALY estimates on which the guidance draws. The guide was published in April 2004 and is available on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=201973

I have made no assessment of the cost per QALY of treating patients at high risk of coronary heart disease. NICE published a health technology appraisal on

statins in January 2006. This guidance relates to the initiation of statin therapy in adults with clinical evidence of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and in adults considered to be at risk of CVD.

Midwives: Eastern Region

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwifery posts are vacant in each NHS trust in the east of England strategic health authority area; and if she will make a statement. [136229]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows the three month vacancies for midwifery staff in the east of England strategic health authority (SHA) area by national health service organisation, from the Information Centre for health and social care vacancies survey March 2006.

	Three month vacancy rate	*Three month vacancy number*
East of England SHA	1.4	25
of which:		
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0.9	1
Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust	0.0	0
Bedfordshire and Luton Community NHS Trust	—	0
Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3.1	4
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	—	0
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	1.9	3
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	0.0	0
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	—	0
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	5.9	4
Huntingdonshire Primary Care Trust	*	0
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	0.0	0
James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	0.0	0
Kings Lynn And Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust	0.0	0
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	0.0	0
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	9.1	8
Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	—	0
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	0.0	0
North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	—	0
Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	0
Peterborough Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1.0	1
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	4.5	4
South Essex Partnership NHS Trust	—	0
Southend Hospital NHS Trust	0.0	0
Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	—	0
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0.0	0
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	0.0	0
Witham Braintree and Halstead Care Trust	—	0

Notes:
1. Vacancy data are from the Vacancy Survey 2006
2. Three month vacancy information is as at 31 March 2006.
3. Three month vacancies are vacancies which Trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full time equivalents).
4. Three month vacancy rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post
5. Three month vacancy rates are calculated using staff in post from the medical and dental and Non-Medical Workforce Censuses September 2005.
6. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place:
* = figures where sum of staff in post (as at 30 September 2005) and vacancies (as at 31 March 2006) is less than 10.
— = zero.
7. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
8. Calculating the vacancy rates using the above data may not equal the actual vacancy rates.
9. Due to rounding, totals may not equal the sum of component part.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care Vacancies Survey.
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental and Non-Medical Workforce Censuses.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many visits abroad were made by Ministers in each year since 1997, broken down by Minister; and what was the cost in each case. [114986]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held in the format requested. However, information related to travel by Cabinet Ministers since 1997 is published on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/

NHS Direct

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls were received by NHS Direct in each of the last three years. [136712]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a matter for the chief executive of the NHS Direct National Health Service Trust.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1046W, on the Healthcare Commission's report on NHS Treatment Centres: private sector, when the Healthcare Commission expects to publish its full report. [137739]

Andy Burnham: The Healthcare Commission expect to publish the final report of their review of the quality of care in Independent Sector Treatment Centres by the end of June 2007.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the tender process for an Independent Sector Treatment Centre for South Essex; and if she will make a statement. [137737]

Andy Burnham: Proposals for an independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) in South Essex are part of phase 2 of the ISTC programme.

There is a robust process in place for the procurement of phase 2 ISTC services which is being conducted in compliance with European Union procurement law and in accordance with Office of Government Commerce best practice.

Bidders interested in the programme responded to an advertisement in the *Official Journal* of the European Union and were free to register an expression of interest, and complete a pre-qualifying questionnaire. Following this process, bidders were short-listed and issued with an invitation to negotiate. Bids were then returned for phase 2 schemes.

In order for bidders to progress in the procurement, they are required to meet specific criteria across a range of specifications including clinical services, finance, work force, information management and technology, and contract management.

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1513W, on the NHS: consultants, what recent estimates have been made of the average annual expenditure on management consultancy organisations by the NHS. [137371]

Andy Burnham: Information on the estimated costs of employing management consultants in the national health service trusts is not collected centrally.

While primary care trusts and NHS trusts operate within the financial framework set by the Department, they are accountable to strategic health authorities for their financial performance, not the Department.

NHS: Contracts

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many managed service companies have had a contractual relationship with the NHS in the last two years; and how much the NHS has paid such companies in fees. [132994]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, information relating to the impact of Schedule 3 of the Finance Bill is included in the Regulatory Impact Assessment Managed Service Companies was published on the HM Revenue and Customs website on 29 March 2007 and can be accessed at www.hmrc.gov.uk.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place for the provision of support for nurses who have been assaulted in the workplace. [136648]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 May 2007]*: In April 2003 the National Health Service Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against NHS staff, together with all other security related issues in the NHS in England. A comprehensive strategy has been implemented detailing both preventative and re-active action to be taken to tackle this problem both nationally and locally.

Guidance has been issued to every health body in England setting out the support that should be offered at a local level to all NHS staff, including nurses that have experienced violence and abuse.

The guidance directs the executive director responsible for security locally to ensure full co-operation with investigations into incidents of violence and abuse and it details the requirements to ensure that the person assaulted is kept informed of the progress and outcome of an investigation.

In addition the guidance includes the requirement for staff to be made aware of the support services available to them such as counselling and referral to an occupational health practitioner.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals have an electronic patient record system. [131710]

Caroline Flint: This information is not held centrally. However, we do know that electronic record systems, such as those being delivered by the national programme for information technology, capable of sharing patient information wherever and whenever it is needed, provide more complete data and lead to the delivery of better care. No significant body of medical opinion disputes their enormous potential to support better clinical decision taking and reduce the incidence of medical error.

Evidence from environments where electronic patient record systems are already routinely available and used shows, for example, that the number of failed appointments falls because hospitals have accurate and up-to-date addresses for patients. The number of duplicate diagnostic procedures and tests also reduces so that patients do not have to undergo repeat X-rays, reducing their risk of excess radiation and, importantly, patients benefit from knowing their records are up-to-date.

Systems like these deployed under the national programme, including the choose and book electronic bookings system which puts patients in charge of their care, and the patient demographic system, that enables letters to be posted to the correct address and patient information to be handled more efficiently, are already in place in every national health service trust, supporting access to care. These include an acute patient administration system (PAS) and a community hospital PAS deployed to Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust and Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust respectively on 24 February, consisting of core PAS functionality along with accident and emergency, scheduling, and clinical functionality. These systems will serve 267,000 inhabitants in the Milton Keynes area.

NHS: Public Appointments

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation there has been with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments on the appointment of the Chairman of the NHS's Provider Development Agency in London. [129528]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The appointment of the Chairman of NHS London's Provider Development Agency was conducted in accordance with normal national health service appointments procedures. The Agency does not fall within the remit of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

NHS: Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* management, *(b)* IT and *(c)* other consultants have been employed to work on the Medical Training Application Service; and how much has been paid to each. [136984]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 May 2007]:* Methods Consulting have been contracted to develop and support the Medical Training Application Service. The total costs of this service including set up costs were £1.9 million in 2006-07. The estimated costs of the service over five years are £6.3 million.

Palliative Care: Children

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will place in the Library a copy of the Independent Review of Palliative Care Services for Children. [137143]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding reply 15 May 2007]:* The report was published today and a copy is available in the Library.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the outcomes were of the Independent Review of Palliative Care Services for Children; and if she will make a statement; [137735]

(2) what plans she has to allocate funding to children's hospices; and what her timetable is for that funding. [137736]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The findings of the independent review of children's palliative care services have been published today and copies are available in the Library. The Government will give thorough consideration to the recommendations and their implications for life-limited children and young people and will publish a detailed response in due course, taking into account any related recommendations from the parallel HM Treasury and Department for Education and Skills disabled children's review.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 18 May 2007

SCOTLAND

Scottish Parliament: Elections

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans his Department has to establish an inquiry into the conduct of the recent Scottish parliamentary elections. [138396]

David Cairns: The Electoral Commission has a statutory obligation to review the Scottish parliamentary elections. This review is to be undertaken under the independent leadership of Mr. Ron Gould. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State indicated during exchanges following his statement to the House on 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 22-36, consideration will be given to whether, in light of the conclusions of the review, further investigations are necessary.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Leader of the House if he will make it his policy not to introduce measures for *(a)* additional state funding of political parties and *(b)* new expenditure controls unless there is political consensus between the three main parties on the proposed reforms. [137742]

Mr. Straw: The Government are committed to working out the practical arrangements needed to take the regulatory framework for party finance and expenditure to new levels of rigour, transparency, fairness and effectiveness. The precise nature of those arrangements will depend on the outcome of cross-party talks, which are being chaired by Sir Hayden Phillips.

The Government believe that all political parties must play a constructive part in those talks so that a system of party finance and expenditure can be agreed in which the public can have confidence.

The Government have this week agreed with the conclusions of the cross-party Constitutional Affairs Committee's report of December 2006 about the key principles on which any reform should be based.

This is a clear indication of the Government's constructive approach to the talks, and their hope that a consensus between the parties can be reached.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Leader of the House if he will make it his policy not to introduce measures on reform of the funding of political parties until the inter-party talks on the funding of political parties chaired by Sir Hayden Phillips have been concluded. [137743]

Mr. Straw: The Government have no plans to introduce measures on reform of the funding of political parties until the inter-party talks chaired by Sir Hayden Phillips have been concluded.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Grants

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which grants for which her Department is responsible have been given to Westminster City Council since 1997; and what the value was of such grants. [137766]

Mr. Lammy: In the Revenue return to Communities and Local Government, Westminster reported that they have received no grants between 1997-98 and 2006-07 from my Department. These specific grants are those inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services) paid to Westminster and exclude grants outside AEF such as capital grants, funding for local authorities' housing management responsibilities, European funding; or where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

These Revenue returns do not therefore detail the money that is paid out by the National Lottery, DCMS non-departmental public bodies and other sources. Departmental data indicate that the following grants were paid to Westminster:

Since November 2005, DCMS has provided funding to Westminster city council to manage the contract for the 7 July Assistance Centre—a centre established to offer practical and emotional assistance to victims of the 7 July London bombings and emergencies overseas. The funding is set out in the following table.

	Grant (£)
November 2005 to March 2006	89,425
April 2006 to March 2007	204,797
April 2007 to March 2008 (confirmed funding)	235,000
Total	529,222

The following table shows the number and value of grants on the Department's Lottery Grants Database (which uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors) where the name of the recipient is recorded as either 'Westminster city council' or 'city of Westminster'. Lottery distributing bodies make grant decisions independently of my Department.

Calendar year	*Number of grants*	*Value of grants to nearest £1,000*
1997	0	0
1998	0	0
1999	1	50,000
2000	3	702,000
2001	3	169,000
2002	4	120,000
2003	2	116,000
2004	4	794,000

Calendar year	Number of grants	Value of grants to nearest £1,000
2005	4	141,000
2006	2	40,000
2007 (to date)	1	39,000
Total	24	2,171,000

English Heritage has provided grants totalling £239,735 to Westminster city council since 1997, in the following table.

Project	Date	Grant (£)
World Square Feasibility Study	31 March 1998	15,000
Conservation Officer post	15 July 1998	3,912
Conservation Officer post	31 March 2000	26,577
Conservation Officer post	28 March 2001	37,665
Conservation Officer post	27 March 2002	14,151
Conservation Officer post	8 April 2003	16,483
Conservation Officer post	19 March 2004	19,751
Conservation Officer post	25 February 2005	11,196
Soho Conservation Area Study	12 March 2004	5,000
Hyde Park Corner landscaping works	24 March 2006	90,000
Total		239,735

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in her Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137812]

Mr. Lammy: My Department does not have any private finance initiative projects included on its balance sheet for 2007 or for any of the five years preceding this.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by her Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years. [137813]

Mr. Lammy: My Department has made no private finance initiative payments from either its capital or its revenue budget in the past five years.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what value of annual private finance initiative payments by her Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137814]

Mr. Lammy: My Department has made no private finance initiative payments in any of the last five years.

All payments made under PFI are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments was *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137815]

Mr. Lammy: My Department has made no annual private finance initiative payments in any of the last five years.

Science

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial support her Department gives to *(a)* museums, *(b)* science centres and *(c)* other projects which (i) promote (A) science and (B) engineering to the general public and (ii) are involved in adding value to the teaching of those subjects in schools. [136249]

Mr. Lammy: DCMS supports the teaching of science and engineering in the following ways:

(a) Museums

As highlighted in the OSI's review of DCMS's contribution to science and research, DCMS's sponsored bodies play a huge role in delivering public engagement in science through their educational and outreach programmes. DCMS spends £340 million (2007-08) on its directly sponsored museums and allocates £45 million (2007-08) to regional hub museums through the 'Renaissance in the Regions' programme, managed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

Some individual museums have a direct remit for science education, such as the National Museum of Science and Industry (£38.48 million GIA in 2007-08), Natural History Museum (£45.09 million), Museum of Science and Industry Manchester (£4.17 million) and National Maritime Museum (£18.41 million) and a number of other DCMS-sponsored museums, for example National Museums Liverpool, have a significant science and technology-based element to their collections and offer a range of science-based learning activities. In addition, the Department awarded grants totalling £401,000 in 2006-07 through the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund to museums with predominantly science-based collections.

DCMS funding has been directed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) Council in a number of ways that allow regional museums to promote science and engineering to the general public, or to add value to the teaching of those subjects in schools:

through Renaissance hub funding—many of the regional hub museums hold significant science and engineering collections;

through the Renaissance Designated Challenge Fund—to improve the management and accessibility of collections designated as nationally significant for the benefit of the public;

through the PRISM Grant Fund—grants are awarded to museums and similar organisations in England and Wales for the purpose of acquiring or conserving objects of scientific and industrial importance. A total of £250,000 is allocated to the fund each year.

(b) Science centres

DCMS does not fund science centres. When the Millennium Commission first provided funding to set

up science centres there was an expectation they would be self-supporting within three years. The DfES and DTI jointly gave science centres a £2 million funding package in 2004-06 to help alleviate short-term financial problems and provided a further £750,000 over the period 2006-08 for project work managed by Ecsite-uk.

(c) Other projects

Since 2003 the National Museum of Science and Industry and its regional partner museums and galleries have received a total of £960,000 through the joint DCMS/DfES-funded museum education programme (known as 'Strategic Commissioning') for a series of projects designed to enrich the teaching of science in schools and to support the informal learning of older members and adults with English as a second language from local communities in north London. Through the same programme the Natural History Museum and its regional partners have received £560,000 for project work, which is supporting the teaching of secondary science in schools across England.

MLA through the Renaissance Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs) grant programme enables specific networks of museums and galleries to share knowledge, expertise and collections, with the aim of improving visitors' experiences. Current SSNs include those which promote science and engineering to the general public, or are involved in adding value to the teaching of those subjects in schools.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the family carers group established by the Disability and Carers Service last met. [137533]

Mrs. McGuire: This is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 18 May 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the family carers group established by the Disability and Carers Service last met.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

I can confirm that the group last met on 22 January 2007. The next meeting is scheduled for 17 July 2007.

I hope this is helpful.

Child Support Agency: Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to his answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1194W, on the Child Support Agency, what the *(a)* value and *(b)* number was of bonus payments made to staff at the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years, broken down by staff grade. [136019]

Mr. Plaskitt: The requested information is not available.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he approved the policy that the Child Support Agency Debt Collecting Agency may refuse to give information to customers and hon. Members on any progress they may be making in reclaiming non-paid maintenance; [133132]

(2) when he will be in a position to answer question 133132, on the Child Support Agency, tabled by the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on 18 April 2007. [137682]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Jos Joures dated 18 May 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is out of the country, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he approved the policy that the Child Support Agency Debt Collecting Agency may refuse to give information to customers and hon. Members on any progress they may be making in reclaiming non-paid maintenance.

The Agency do not encourage parents with care to contact the debt collection agencies who are contracted to recover debt. If a parent with care requires an update on the progress of their case, they can contact the Child Support Agency directly and will secure an update on their behalf. The debt collection agencies are required to provide this update to the CSA when requested. Non-resident parents, however, should deal directly with the debt collection agencies when arranging the collection of arrears.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many credit card payments by non-resident parents have taken more than a week to be processed and passed on to the parent with care since 2005; and what the average time taken to pass on such payments has been in that period. [134123]

Mr. Plaskitt: Unfortunately the information requested is unavailable, as the Agency does not record the information in the format requested, and the information could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have disputed the clerical account breakdown of money received by the Child Support Agency from non-resident parents since 2005. [134124]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of child support claims relating to non-payment of full child support involving *(a)* self-employed people and *(b)* company directors; [134135]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Jos Joures dated 18 May 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is out of the country I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the number of child support claims relating to non-payment of full child support involving *(a)* self-employed people and *(b)* company directors.

In the three months ending December 2006, there were 25,320 cases charged by the Agency where the Non-Resident Parent was self-employed and not paying their full child support liability. These cases include those who only pay part of their maintenance.

I am sorry but due to limitations of available information it has not been possible to provide you with statistics where a non-resident parent is a company director.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to combat the practice of parents diverting income through company employees to avoid paying their children's full entitlement of child support. [134696]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Jos Joures, dated 18 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps he has taken to combat the problem of parents diverting their income through company employees to avoid paying their children's full entitlement of child support. [134696]

Existing child support legislation includes provisions for both old and new scheme cases to cover circumstances where the non-resident parent appears to have reduced or diverted their income to avoid meeting their obligations to maintain their children.

For old scheme cases, where the parent with care has evidence that the non-resident parent is reducing their income to avoid their responsibilities, they can ask the Agency to review the maintenance assessment. This application, known as a 'Departure Direction', as the parent with care is requesting that the Agency departs from the original maintenance calculation, can be made in cases where the non-resident parents are able to control they amount of income they receive and where they unreasonably reduce that income.

For new scheme cases the procedure is similar, if the parent with care has evidence to believe that the non resident parent is diverting income for the purpose of reducing the maintenance assessment, they can apply for a 'Variation' to the maintenance assessment.

In either case, the decision maker will consider whether; the non-resident parent has the ability to control the amount of income they receive and whether they have deliberately reduced the level of income by diverting it to someone else or into a business in order to reduce or avoid child maintenance. The Agency is also required to consider whether it is "just and equitable" to make a departure or variation decision. Broadly this means that the result of the departure or variation must be fair, taking account of all the circumstances of the case, and, in particular, the welfare of any child likely to be affected. This includes the child for whom maintenance is paid as well as any other children living with either parent.

The Agency will then consider the evidence and decide whether to restore the maintenance due to the level that it would have been had the income not been reduced. A typical example would be where the parent diverts income from a business to their spouse—who also works for the business—or where profits are retained in the company rather than producing an income.

Finally, where an allegation is made or conflicting evidence exists that suggests the non-resident parent has made a false statement, the Agency will consider whether a referral to the Agency's Criminal Compliance Team is appropriate. Section 14A (2) of the Child Support Act 1991 makes it an offence to knowingly make a false statement in reply to a request for information.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of implementation of changes in child maintenance variation regulations made by the Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005. [135404]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 2 May 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Jos Joures, dated 18 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is out of the country, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the effect of implementation of changes in child maintenance variation regulations made by the Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005. [135404]

The Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005 extended the ground in Regulation 19 of the Child Support (Variations) Regulations for a variation for income not taken into account under the Child Support (Maintenance Calculations and Special Cases) Regulations 2000. Variation regulations were extended to cover cases in which the non-resident parent has the ability to control the amount of income he receives from a company or business and the Secretary of State is satisfied he is receiving income that would not otherwise be taken into account.

The Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005 also amended the Child Support (Variations) Regulations 2000 by making provision to take into account financial assistance paid in respect to the long-term illness or disability of a relevant other child or disability living allowance paid on behalf of that child, to a member of the non-resident parent's household where there is an application for a variation for special expenses for that relevant other child. The Regulations also made a number of consequential amendments.

The variations regime is intended to ensure the Agency offers an accurate and fair service to both the non-resident parent and the parent with care. It allows for variations to the amount of maintenance due based on extraordinary factors not covered by the standard formula. The Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005 broadened the scope of the Agency's ability to ensure non-resident parents meet their financial responsibilities, and are not penalised for unavoidable increased living costs.

No specific assessment of the impact of the changes made by the Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005 has been conducted.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money private agencies have collected on behalf of the Child Support Agency since private companies were first used; and how fees for successful collection are determined. [122409]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive.

He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 18 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much money private agencies have collected on behalf of the Child Support Agency since private companies were first used; and how fees for successful collection are determined. [122409]

The Agency singed contracts with two debt collection agencies on 7th July 2006 and started referring cases to these agencies in August 2006. As of the 31st January 2007 a total of £738,000 had been collected by the debt collection agencies.

A letter sent by the Agency to inform clients that their debt is to be transferred to the external debt collection agencies had also resulted in an additional £640,000 collected by the Agency by the end of January 2007.

Debt collection agencies are paid a commission by the Agency based on the amount of child maintenance that is collected on our behalf. The commission rate is calculated on a four-point scale, based on the complexity of the debt that is being pursued.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departments: Information and Communications Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by his Department with outside suppliers over the last five years, as referred to in the answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 233-4W, on information technology. [135608]

James Purnell: The information in the following table updates the estimated outturn for the IT contracts listed in my previous answer.

Contract	*Supplier*	*Contract estimate (£ million)*	*Previously reported contract outturn estimate (£ million)*	*Most recently estimated contract outturn estimate (£ million)*
Accord/Standard services business allocation (SSBA)	EDS	3433.5	2396.8	2,535.3
Accord/Integrated Communications and Network Services (ICONS)	BT	1411.3	870.0	942.3
Pensions transformation project	Accenture	181.3	122.0	165.1
Benefits processing replacement programme/Working age transformation and change programme	IBM	123.4	79.7	49.8
Central payment system	Siemens	59.6	59.6	59.6

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136868]

Mrs. McGuire: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone helplines are sponsored by his Department with the prefix *(a)* 0870 and *(b)* 0845; and whether alternative geographic numbers are available in each case. [136258]

Mrs. McGuire: Under arrangements with our telephone supplier, DWP has *(a)* 22 specific 0870 numbers and *(b)* 2029 specific 0845 numbers, used for a variety of purposes. The Department delegates the administration and management of non-geographic telephone numbers to local management at operational level. The services linked to individual telephone numbers broken down to helplines is not available, nor the availability of alternative geographic numbers.

Departments: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the cost was of staff relocations between his Department's offices in Wales in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [136654]

(2) which staff relocations between his Department's offices in Wales took place in each year since 2000; how many staff were involved in each such relocation; and if he will make a statement. [136655]

Mrs. McGuire: Neither Jobcentre Plus or DWP hold detailed records of approved Public Expense moves within the Department's offices in Wales. Any detailed investigation to retrieve this information would involve disproportionate costs.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Sifam Limited Retirement Plan is one of the pension schemes to be included in the extension of the Financial Assistance Scheme to solvent employers. [136558]

James Purnell *[holding answer 10 May 2007]:* At present the Sifam Limited Retirement Plan does not qualify for the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) as we understand that the sponsoring employer has not undergone an insolvency event. We currently do not have sufficient information to establish whether the scheme will be included in the recently announced extension to include pension schemes with compromise agreements. The FAS Operational Unit wrote to the trustee on 4 May explaining the position and stating that it may be necessary for the scheme to re-apply once changes to Scheme Qualifying Rules have been finalised.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been reported to him by the Health and Safety Commission in meeting targets for the reduction of deaths and injuries at work; what the most recent figure is for *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal injuries at work in the United Kingdom; and what the European Union average rates are. [135669]

Mrs. McGuire: The Revitalising Health and Safety target for injury which applies to Great Britain is to reduce the incidence rate of fatal and major injury by 10 per cent. between 1999-2000 and 2009-10; the pro-rata target for 2005-06 is a 6 per cent. reduction. The available sources indicate no clear change since the base year in the rate of fatal and major injury to employees. Since 2000, HSE has concentrated on key priority areas in partnership with industry and others. This has resulted in significant improvements in, for example, falls from height where the number of injuries has reduced. This activity has begun to show through to the overall fatal and major injuries rate.

The Health and Safety Executive has a public service agreement (PSA) target to reduce injuries by 3 per cent. between 2004-05 and 2007-08. In the first year of this agreement, the rate of fatal and major injuries dropped by 6.7 per cent.

There were 212 fatalities to workers reported for the whole year of 2005-06, 223 for 2004-05, and 236 in 2003-04. For the first six months of 2006-07, there were 124 fatal injuries to workers.

There were 28,605 major injuries reported for employees in 2005-06, compared with 30,451 in 2004-05, and 30,689 in 2003-04. For 2005-06, there were also 117,471 other injuries to employees reported causing an absence of over three days.

In 2003 (the most recent year for which data are available across the European Union) the average rate of work-related fatal injury in the European Union, excluding transport accidents, is 2.5 per 100,000 workers. The British rate is 1.1—the lowest across the EU.

EUROSTAT has estimated that there were 3.5 million over three day injuries in the EU, allowing for under-reporting. This translates into a non-fatal rate of 3,334 per 100,000 workers. The British rate is 1,614. The British rate of workplace non-fatal injury in 2003 is the fourth lowest among EU member states.

Industrial Health and Safety: Construction

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of *(a)* fatal, *(b)* major and *(c)* three day injuries to employees in the construction industry in the UK was in (i) 2006 and (ii) the first quarter of 2007. [135671]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

The following rates of injury to employees in the construction industry relate to published injury numbers for the provisional year 2005-06 and the first six months of 2006-07.

Rates of injury to employees in the construction industry, as reported to all enforcing authorities

	Fatal injuries	*Non-fatal major injuries*	*Over three day injuries*	*All reported injuries*
2005-06[1]	3.5	310.2	632.1	945.8
2006-07[2]	3.8	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] Provisional.

[2] Represents a crude annualised rate for the first six months of 2006-07, as it does not take account of any adjustments due to seasonal variation.

Mediation: Pilot Schemes

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the therapeutic mediation pilot being carried out for his Department by Relate will be completed; when he will publish results of the pilot; what criteria are being used to evaluate the pilot; and if he will make a statement. [130518]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Relate therapeutic mediation pilot will continue until June 2008.

The University of East London has been commissioned to evaluate the pilot. We expect the evaluation report to be produced and published by spring 2008. The evaluation will include the effectiveness of the training offered by Relate, and of the mediation model in preventing homelessness and resolving family conflict.

Pension Credit: Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Rotherham are in receipt of pensioners' credit. [137561]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* As at February 2007 4,900 households in Rotherham constituency were receiving pension credit.

Notes:

1. The figure provided is an early estimate. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the GMS scan at 2 March 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory and are therefore based on the 2005 parliamentary boundaries.

4. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS) pension credit scan taken as at 2 March 2007.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average weekly amount of benefit was for a *(a)* single pensioner, *(b)* married pensioner, *(c)* single person under pensionable age, *(d)* married couple under pensionable age and *(e)* married couple with children (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest available date. [128541]

James Purnell: The available information is in the following table.

Average (mean) weekly benefit payments to claimants in Great Britain

£

	1997-98	*2005-06*
Single pensioner	96	145
Married pensioner couple	134	192
Single non-pensioner	94	110
Married non-pensioner couple	53	61
Married non-pensioner couple with children	41	48

Notes:

1. Data for 1997-98 were collected between April 1997 and March 1998 and data for 2005-06 were collected between April 2005 and March 2006.
2. The Family Resources Survey (FRS) is a nationally representative sample of approximately 28,000 households.
3. Pensioner couple is defined as a couple where the head of the benefit unit is over pension age, defined as 60 for women and 65 for men.
4. Married couples include Civil Partnerships in 2005-06.
5. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
6. Figures are mean-averages of weekly benefits received by claimants only (i.e. excluding non-claimants) and have been rounded to the nearest 1. Figures for couples are average weekly benefit amounts per couple.
7. Figures for weekly benefits include both income-related and non-income related benefits but exclude tax credits.

Source:

Family Resources Survey: Great Britain 1997-98 and 2005-06.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Prisons: Drugs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions during the past 12 months a passive drug dog was not present during visiting times at each Northern Ireland prison establishment to carry out searches for prohibited substances. [136051]

Paul Goggins: The number of occasions that the prison drugs dog was not deployed by prison establishments over the past 12 months is:

	Number
Maghaberry	0
Magilligan	42
Hydebank Wood	12

The Northern Ireland Prison Service endeavours to have a passive drug dog operational during all visiting sessions, though due to various factors this is not always possible.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of the Northern Ireland Prison Service were *(a)* disciplined, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for supplying drugs or other prohibited items to prisoners in each of the last five years. [136824]

Paul Goggins: None. However, the Northern Ireland Prison Service takes steps to prevent such activities, and has rigorous arrangements in place to investigate any instances it is suspected any inappropriate activities have occurred.

Prisons: Religious Practice

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many chaplains of each religious affiliation are linked to each prison establishment in Northern Ireland; and how many visits chaplains made to Northern Ireland's prisons in each of the last 12 months. [136055]

Paul Goggins: The Prison Service does not record the number of visits made. Each chaplain is allocated a set number of hours (commensurable with the number of prisoners) within each prison establishment. Chaplains spent 13,704 hours in Northern Ireland's prisons last year.

The number and location of the chaplains linked to each prison establishment in Northern Ireland is given in the following table.

Establishment	*Roman Catholic Chaplains*	*Church of Ireland Chaplains*	*Methodist Chaplains*	*Presbyterian Chaplains*	*Free Presbyterian Chaplains*
Maghaberry	2	2	2	[1]0	1
Magilligan	1	1	1	1	1
Hydebank Wood	2	1	1	1	1

[1] A Presbyterian chaplain has recently been recruited

In addition, arrangements have been made for an Imam to make regular prison visits and more recently, we have contacted a Polish Priest to arrange a visit.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service are currently in discussion with the churches on recommendations from an internal review of the structure of the

Northern Ireland Prison Chaplaincy Service; this will conclude on 12 June. The review addresses current and future management arrangements and the resources required to meet the diverse needs of the growing prisoner population in line with best practice elsewhere.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels: Subsidies

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in the EU on subsidies for biofuels in each year since 1997. [137517]

Dr. Ladyman: These totals are not available in the form requested.

However, the UK Government's support for biofuels has, to date, come mainly in the form of fuel duty incentives. A 20p per litre fuel duty incentive was introduced for biodiesel in 2002 and for bioethanol in 2005. Detailed information on the level of biofuel sales that these duty incentives have supported in each year since 2002 is available via the HM Customs and Revenue website at www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil The figures in the following table set out the total amount of duty that has been foregone on biofuel sales because of these incentives.

	Cost of 20p per litre incentive (£ million)
Pre-2002	0
2002	0.6
2003	3.8
2004	4.2
2005	23.6
2006	52.8

Other forms of Government support for biofuels (including, for example, support for research and development programmes) are summarised in a series of annual UK reports to the European Commission, available on the Commission website at http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/biofuels_members_states_en.htm This website also contains summary details of the support for biofuels provided by other member states and by the Commission.

Cars: Excise Duties

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars registered to owners in Worcestershire will have to pay the new Band G (£300) per annum tax. [138227]

Dr. Ladyman: As at 31 December 2006 1,507 vehicles registered to addresses in Worcestershire were licensed in the new band G. In addition there were 12,935 vehicles which, although licensed in band F now, would have fallen into the band G emission category had they been registered after 23 March 2006.

Railways: Birmingham

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress has been made in easing train congestion problems at Birmingham New Street Station; [138149]

(2) if he will make a statement on train platforming at Birmingham New Street Station for Arriva Trains Wales services. [138150]

Mr. Tom Harris: Responsibility for the performance of the railway network and best use of capacity rests with Network Rail in conjunction with train operators. The High Level Output Specification (HLOS), to be published in the summer, will set out the additional rail capacity the Government propose to buy to meet the recent and forecast growth in demand for rail travel.

Railways: EC Action

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of implementing the European Rail Traffic Management System. [138145]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Strategic Rail Authority made an extensive study of the effects of ERTMS on the UK railway. Network Rail now leads the National ERTMS Programme and has updated the SRA's work. If applied when a line is being resignalled, ERTMS can reduce the overall cost of the railway and support capacity enhancement. ERTMS also produces a small safety improvement over and above the high level of train protection afforded by TPWS. However, the capacity and cost benefits only apply if ERTMS Level 2 is used to eliminate lineside signalling. The Cambrian Early Deployment Scheme will demonstrate the use of this technology in the UK for the first time.

Roads: Tolls

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations he has received on potential links between road pricing and applications for transport infrastructure funds by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* Transport for London; and if he will make a statement; [R] [135979]

(2) if he will make a statement on progress with the 10 road pricing pilot areas; [R] [135980]

(3) if he will make it his policy not to link applications for projects under transport infrastructure funds to road pricing schemes. [R] [135981]

Dr. Ladyman: Ministers have met representatives of local transport authorities and Transport for London and departmental officials have regular ongoing contact.

No decisions have been taken on areas to take forward local road pricing. 10 areas have been awarded pump-priming funding to support the development of Transport Innovation Fund packages that address local congestion problems. The guidance we have issued has made clear that TIF will be used to support packages that combine investment in transport with demand management

measures, such as road pricing. These packages will need to address problems in a way that supports economic growth, and supports other objectives for environmental protection, safety and social inclusion. We expect to receive the first bids for TIP support this summer.

However, TIP is additional to other transport investment. We are continuing to invest record sums in local transport for all local authorities in England. Funding for transport infrastructure in the English regions outside of London can still be accessed through the Regional Funding Allocation process.

South West Trains: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether South West Trains has met all of its performance targets in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [138124]

Mr. Tom Harris: Targets for SWT were introduced in the 2003 refranchising process.

Performance targets and the Moving Annual Average (MAA) that SWT achieved for the years that they had targets are shown as follows:

	Target (MAA)	*Percentage Actual (MAA)*
2004	77	75.8
2005	80	88.1
2006	81	90.4

The Stagecoach South Western Franchise that commenced in February 2007 has performance benchmarks on a period by period basis and to date these have been met.

Traffic Lights

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1677W, on traffic lights, what progress is being made in the introduction of traffic responsive operation of traffic signals. [137470]

Gillian Merron: It is for local traffic authorities to decide on the optimum mode of operation for traffic signals. Traffic responsive systems have been available and encouraged by the Department since the 1930s. The Department's advice contained in Traffic Advisory Leaflet 1/06, "General principles of traffic control by light systems", re-iterates and endorses their use. I have arranged for copies of the Traffic Advisory Leaflet to be placed in the Library.

JUSTICE

Elections

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the Indra electronic counting system used in the electoral pilot of May 2007 by Bedford borough council; and if she will make a statement. [137684]

Bridget Prentice: The independent Electoral Commission has a statutory duty to evaluate and report on each of the May 2007 electoral pilot schemes, and will assess the effectiveness of the electronic counting system used by Bedford borough council. My Department awaits the Electoral Commission's findings which will be published by 4 August 2007.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* advance voting during the week before polling day, *(b)* voters providing their signature before being issued with their ballot papers, *(c)* electronic counting and *(d)* use of a single column on the ballot paper for the mayoralty election in the electoral pilots of May 2007 by Bedford borough council; and if she will make a statement. [137685]

Bridget Prentice: The independent Electoral Commission has a statutory duty to evaluate and report on each of the May 2007 electoral pilot schemes, including the effectiveness of each of the elements of the Bedford borough council pilot scheme. My Department awaits the Electoral Commission's findings which will be published by 4 August 2007.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations her Department has received from the Electoral Commission on the use of electronic vote counting technology and equipment for the May 2007 electoral pilots; and if she will make a statement. [137689]

Bridget Prentice: My Department sought the Electoral Commission's views on all of the applications that were made to conduct electoral pilot schemes at the May 2007 local elections, including the use of electronic vote counting technology. The Commission's comments were received on 1 December 2006.

A number of issues were raised by the Commission which were resolved following ongoing discussions with my officials.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what independent safeguards were put in place for electoral pilots in May 2007 using electronic counting technology and equipment; and if she will make a statement. [137690]

Bridget Prentice: My Department carried out a rigorous procurement process to identify suppliers to work with local authorities to conduct electoral pilot schemes at the May 2007 local elections in England. Each pilot scheme involving the use of electronic voting or counting systems was also subject to a rigorous quality assurance assessment by independent experts on behalf of my Department, and also to testing by suppliers and local authorities prior to use.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps the Government are taking to ensure public confidence in electronic vote counting technology and equipment in elections; and if she will make a statement. [137691]

Bridget Prentice: My Department is implementing a programme of work to develop effective and secure

electoral systems for the future, including electronic vote counting technology. The programme includes the piloting and evaluation of new technologies, and research and development activities with suppliers, electoral administrators and other organisations. Public confidence in electoral systems is essential, and no new technologies will be rolled out for general use until we are satisfied that they are accurate and secure.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice at what time the final election result was declared in *(a)* Bedford borough council, *(b)* Breckland district council, *(c)* Dover district council, *(d)* Stratford-on-Avon district council and *(e)* Warwick district council in the electoral pilot schemes of May 2007; how much was spent on the use of electronic counting and equipment in each area; how many spoilt ballot papers were rejected as a percentage of the total vote in each area; and if she will make a statement. [137695]

Bridget Prentice: The times of the declaration of the final election results and the percentages of ballot papers rejected in each of the five electoral pilot schemes in May 2007 are listed in the following table.

Authority	*Time of declaration*	*Percentage of rejected ballot papers*
Bedford borough council	5 May at 1.38am	1.3
Breckland council	8 May at 8pm	1.1
Dover district council	4 May at 4.15am	0.56
Stratford-on-Avon district council	4 May at 12.30pm	1.34
Warwick district council	8 May at 5.45pm	0.67

It is expected that the details of the total costs for the electoral pilot schemes using electronic counting in May 2007 will be provided in the independent Electoral Commission's statutory evaluation of the pilot schemes, which will be published by 4 August 2007.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many electoral pilots in May 2007 which used electronic counting technology and equipment reverted to manual counting of votes; and if she will make a statement. [137697]

Bridget Prentice: Two electoral pilots reverted to manual counting of votes. These were Breckland council, and the joint pilot by Stratford-on-Avon district council and Warwick district council. The Electoral Commission is currently evaluating each electoral pilot scheme, and their findings will provide valuable information about the issues that arose in these authorities and will also help us to identify how to address any future issues.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations her Department has received on the use of random hand counts of ballots in electoral pilots of May 2007 which used electronic counting and equipment; and if she will make a statement. [137698]

Bridget Prentice: My Department has not received any representations on the use of random hand counts of ballots at the electoral pilot schemes which used electronic counting in May 2007.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what measures were put in place to ensure that electoral pilots using electronic counting and equipment in May 2007 could be independently verified; and if she will make a statement. [137699]

Bridget Prentice: My Department commissioned independent quality assurance audit and testing to support the delivery of electoral pilot schemes using electronic counting at the May 2007 local elections. Under provisions introduced by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, independent observers were also permitted to monitor all elections, including those where electoral pilot schemes were held.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many of the electoral pilots of May 2007 which used electronic counting and equipment undertook random hand counts of ballots; and if she will make a statement. [137700]

Bridget Prentice: I am not aware that any of the electoral pilot schemes of May 2007 which used electronic counting undertook random hand counts of ballot papers.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans the Government have to use electronic counting and equipment in future electoral pilots; and if she will make a statement. [137701]

Bridget Prentice: My Department is currently considering the future role of electronic counting technology, and how it might be developed through further piloting or other research. The findings of the independent Electoral Commission's statutory evaluation of the May 2007 electoral pilot schemes will inform that ongoing consideration before any decisions about future pilot schemes are made.

Electoral Systems

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1725W, on electoral systems, when the review of electoral systems currently in use in the United Kingdom began; and if she will make a statement. [138051]

Bridget Prentice: The review under way in the Ministry of Justice commenced after the May 2005 elections. It is anticipated that the review will be completed within the lifetime of this Parliament. Ministers will take decisions on any next steps, if necessary, after the review is completed.

Ministry of Justice

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will list the dates of the meetings of the working group set up by the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice on 19 March 2007 to consider the implications of the creation of the Ministry of Justice. [137648]

Bridget Prentice: The working group has met regularly since it was set up on 19 March 2007. Its discussions are ongoing.

Prisons: Construction

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many prison places she plans to bring into use from *(a)* refurbishment, *(b)* new build on existing sites and *(c)* new build on sites that do not currently house a prison in each of the next five years; [137645]

(2) what funds have been allocated for capital works on the prison estate on *(a)* refurbishment, *(b)* new build on existing sites and *(c)* new build on sites that do not currently house a prison in each of the next four years. [137647]

Mr. Sutcliffe: NOMS undertakes a rolling programme of refurbishment on the prison estate. As schemes come back into use following refurbishment, other schemes are taken forward and the accommodation is taken out of use.

Of the 8,000 new prison places announced by the Home Secretary in July 2006, approximately half will be on sites not currently occupied by prisons. The programme is still in the planning stages and the number of places to be provided beyond 2007 has not been finalised. However, this year the capacity of the prison estate will increase in total by around 2,200 places. This includes 700 places from the 8,000 programme and the remainder from already planned expansions. All of the new places this year will be provided at existing prison sites.

The estimated total capital cost of the new 8,000 places is around £1.5 billion. The breakdown of costs in each of the next five years has not yet been finalised.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what arrangements are in place to allow people held on remand to vote; and how many people on remand voted in the *(a)* recent elections for the (i) National Assembly for Wales and (ii) Scottish Parliament and *(b)* local elections in (A) England, (B) Scotland and (c) the last general election. [138103]

Bridget Prentice: The Representation of the People Act 2000 made it possible for prisoners on remand, who are otherwise eligible to vote, to register to vote from their place of detention. Such persons are able to vote via post or by proxy.

The information on the number of remand prisoners who voted at the elections is not available. HM Prison Service keeps a record of the total number of remand prisoners, although no information is kept on those registered to vote. Records are not kept of whether particular categories of voters have exercised their right to vote at UK elections.

TREASURY

Departments: Telecommunications

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on telecommunication costs in each year since 1997. [133437]

John Healey: Information on telecommunication costs (including IT networking costs) for the Chancellor's departments and agencies in each year since 1997 is given in the table:

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
HMT	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1,592,000	1,416,000	1,796,000	1,558,000
DMO	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	85,000	141,000	142,000	121,000
OGC	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	465,000	691,000	734,000	840,000	1,132,000
VOA	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1,606,000	2,110,000	1,643,000	1,766,000	1,658,000
HMRC	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	22.5 million	28.1 million	30.7 million	30.1 million	[2]19.2 million
Royal Mint	126,000	151,000	134,000	176,000	149,000	162,000	183,000	[3]240,000	113,000
NS&I	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
ONS	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	441,000	552,000	808,000	968,000	1093,000
GAD			38,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	38,000	40,000	43,000

[1] Figures could only be provided at disproportionate cost.
[2] The decrease in charges for HMRC in 2005-06 reflects the transfer of responsibility for maintenance and service of the telephone system to the Department's IT partner and it is not possible to disaggregate this element from their charges. For ONS, the increase in 2005- 06 is due mainly to implementation of a secure dial in service (RAS) for laptop users.
[3] The high fixed line charge for the Royal Mint in 2004-05 related to a settlement in respect of 0845 numbers which had not been charged by BT over the previous three years. The reduction in 2005-06 was due in part to the more competitive marketplace and in part to more efficient use of the charging system by the Mint.

Audited information for 2006-07 will be available by July 2007.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what part *(a)* he and *(b)* departmental representatives are playing in the inter-party talks on the funding of political parties chaired by Sir Hayden Phillips. [137747]

John Healey: The Chancellor of the Exchequer does not have a role in the inter-party talks.

Social Security Benefits: EC Nationals

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many migrant workers from other European Economic Area (EEA) countries receive benefits from the UK for dependents living in other EEA countries; and what the total cost was of such benefits in the last 12 months. [137212]

Mr. Timms: In respect of tax credits and child benefit, the information requested is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Administration

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the administration of tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [137404]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers have received a number of representations on various aspects of the administration of the tax credits system. In particular the Government have responded to the sixth report of the Treasury Committee, session 2005-06, on the administration of tax credits, on 8 November 2006 and I refer the hon. Member to the debate on that report on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 141-84WH. In addition, Treasury Ministers regularly report to the House on the operation of tax credits.

Welfare Tax Credits: Personal Data

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals claiming tax credits have been notified that details of their bank account and sort code have been sent to another client. [136901]

Mr. Timms: HMRC are aware that a number of incorrect tax credit award notices have been sent out, including some containing partial information about another claimant's tax credit claim. This was caused by an isolated problem with one of the printers. HMRC take confidentiality very seriously and have robust procedures in place to protect information provided by claimants. As soon as they became aware of the incident, they corrected the problem with the printer and have taken steps to ensure there can be no recurrence. HMRC established that the incident affected around 42,000 families. In particular, 8,000 notices were sent out which contained some bank account details for a claimant other than the recipient.

HMRC's immediate priority was to protect claimants' personal data and to ensure the correct information was provided to tax credit claimants. HMRC wrote to all claimants affected to apologise for this mistake; to provide the correct tax credit award notice; to advise them of the action that HMRC has taken to protect affected claimants; and to provide information on what further steps claimants may wish to take in response to this incident.

As a precautionary measure HMRC immediately alerted the banking industry who issued a general alert to the banks. HMRC also provided the information necessary for the banks of affected claimants to put the appropriate safeguards in place. HMRC also informed the Information Commissioner. HMRC's current safeguards should prevent any fraudulent tax credits claims based on the information released.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Iraq

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqis *(a)* were granted and *(b)* applied for asylum in the UK in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [136336]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of applications received and initial decisions made for nationals of Iraq since 2003 are shown in the attached table.

Decision figures do not necessarily relate to applications received in the same period.

Information on asylum applications and initial decisions for Iraqi nationals are published quarterly and annually. Copies are available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, 2003-06, nationals of Iraq

Principal applicants

Iraq	*Total Applications*	*Total decisions*	*Grants of asylum*	*Grants of ELR*	*Grants of HP[3]*	*Grants of DL[3]*	*Total refusals*
2003	4,015	6,805	70	2,105	*	45	4,580
2004	1,695	4,815	10	n/a	—	185	4,615
2005[4]	1,415	1,835	5	n/a	10	150	1,675
2006[4]	950	730	30	n/a	—	60	640

n/a = not applicable.

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, with '*' = 1 or 2.

[2] Information is of initial determination decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions. Decision figures do not necessarily relate to applications received in the same period.

[3] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.

[4] Provisional figures

Source:

Immigration Research and Statistics Service, RDS.

Bonus Payments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department each year since 2001-02; and how many civil servants received bonuses in each year. [101022]

Mr. Byrne: Where it is available, the information requested is recorded in the following table.

	Amount paid (£)	*Number paid*	*Total staff (headcount)*
2002-03	2,067,878	3,388	18,190
2003-04	2,919,953	4,082	20,994
2004-05	3,459,397	4,710	24,081
2005-06	3,612,916	5,014	25,343

Within the Home Office and its agencies there are separate arrangements for awarding bonuses. Staff may receive annual, appraisal-related awards based on their exceptional contribution throughout the year, or special bonuses for exceptional, specific work. Senior civil servants can be awarded bonuses as set out in the Senior Salaries Review Body report number 62.

Notes:

1. Comprehensive data for 2001-02 are not available or can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

2. The data for appraisal-related bonus payments are included only for Home Office HQ and Border and Immigration Agency (BIA). The data for the public sector Prison Service are excluded as they can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Identity and Passport Agency (IPS) does not run an appraisal-related bonus scheme.

3. Data for special bonus payments are included only for the senior civil service (for the whole Department and its agencies) and IPS for 2004-05 and 2005-06 for certain bonuses where information is available

4. Data recorded for performance appraisal payments relate to the previous reporting year and not the financial year in which the bonuses themselves were paid.

5. Staffing data are for those in Home Office HQ and BIA and all senior civil servants in the Department and its agencies. For 2004-05 and 2005-06 IPS staff are included.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce fear of crime amongst the elderly. [137883]

Mr. Coaker: Fear of crime is at historically low levels but we are not complacent and acknowledge that older people continue to have a high level of fear of crime despite the relatively low risk of them becoming victims of crime.

Previous work to lower this level of fear amongst older people has focused on addressing the misperceptions about crime by promoting the facts about crime levels, and encouraging common-sense precautions which individuals can take to prevent becoming a victim. This has been achieved by working with charities such as Help the Aged and Age Concern to find new and better ways of tackling fear among the older population, as well as tackling the crimes committed against them.

In addition, we are working to improve public confidence and, in turn, fear of crime. The roll out of neighbourhood policing will impact significantly on confidence in the police. Greater community engagement, more visible policing in communities and increased local accountability of crime and disorder reduction partnerships will all aid the reduction of fear of crime amongst the elderly.

Crime: Surveys

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much his Department spent on researching, producing, distributing and publicising the British Crime Survey in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [136729]

(2) how much his Department spent on researching, producing, distributing and publicising the annual and quarterly version of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Crime in England and Wales in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; and if he will make a statement: [136730]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answers 14 May 2007]:* Following competitive tender, the Home Office commissioned an external survey research company to carry out the British Crime Survey on its behalf. The cost of this contract in each of the years asked about was *(a)* £4.5 million in 2004-05, *(b)* £4.6 million in 2005-06 and *(c)* £4.8 million in 2006-07.

The print and distribution costs of the annual and quarterly version of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Crime in England and Wales, was £19,000 in 2004-05; £19,000 in 2005-06; and, £14,000 in 2006-07. The cost of print and distribution has reduced as accessing Home Office statistics on-line has become more popular.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135157]

Mr. Byrne: For Core Home Office (excluding the Public Sector Prison Service) including Border and Immigration Agency, Criminal Records Bureau and Identity and Passport Service, the number of grievances raised from 27 April 2006 to 27 April 2007 is set out in the following table.

	Number of grievances
Core Home Office	7
Border and Immigration Agency	70
Criminal Records Bureau	—
Identity and Passport Service	12

For Core Home Office and Border and Immigration Agency: Since 1 January 2005 people management has been devolved to a local line management level, including decisions on grievances, and therefore the figures supplied are those that have been reported to HR by line managers and recorded centrally.

Border and Immigration Agency figures do not include any new grievances lodged after 25 April 2007.

Information for the Criminal Records Bureau is not provided on grounds of confidentiality as there have been fewer than five grievance procedures initiated.

The Public Sector Prison Service does not hold the information centrally in the format requested, and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Bullying

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134826]

Mr. Byrne: For Core Home Office (excluding Public Sector Prison Service, Criminal Records Bureau and Identity and Passport Service) and Border and Immigration Agency, the number of complaints investigated and upheld during the 12 month period to 27 April 2007 is set out in the following table.

Department	*Number of complaints upheld*	*Number of complaints not upheld*
Core Home Office	1 (upheld in part)	0
Border and Immigration Agency	4 (includes 3 upheld in part)	11

Since January 2005 for staff in Core Home Office and Border and Immigration Agency people management has been devolved to a local line management level, with units either commissioning the investigation using HR staff or non HR staff who are specifically trained to carry these types of investigations. Line managers are only required to inform HR at the conclusion of the process, and therefore the figures supplied are those that have been reported to HR by line managers, and recorded centrally.

Border and Immigration Agency figures do not include any new complaints lodged after 25 April 2007.

Information for Criminal Records Bureau and Identity and Passport Service is not provided on grounds of confidentiality as there were fewer than five complaints investigated. The Public Sector Prison Service does not hold the information centrally in the format requested. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132199]

Mr. Byrne: The Department has a written policy on the provision of official hospitality in the form of food, drink and entertainment to non-civil servants which is available to all staff on the departmental intranet and which all staff are expected to comply with as part of their terms and conditions of service. The policy complies with the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety and the principles of Government accounting and allows for a modest amount of alcohol to be provided at lunches or dinners, at the discretion of senior management, as long as the overall cost of the lunch or dinner falls within the stated expenditure ranges.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in 2006-07. [133258]

Mr. Byrne: Home Office expenditure on official hospitality and entertainment conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which complies with the principles of Government accounting and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Hospitality is defined as the provision of food, drink and entertainment of non-civil servants where it is beneficial to the interests of the Department.

The spend for 2006-07 based on draft accounts is £94,044.

This figure covers hospitality provided by both civil servants and Ministers.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135374]

Mr. Byrne: For Core Home Office (excluding Public Sector Prison Service), Border and Immigration Agency, Identity and Passport Service, Criminal Records Bureau, in the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, seven complaints of sexual harassment were investigated. Of these, two were upheld, three were upheld in part and two were not upheld. As there were fewer than five complaints of sexual harassment in each of Core Home Office, (excluding Public Sector Prison Service), Border and Immigration Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau, a further breakdown is not provided on grounds of confidentiality.

Since 1 January 2005, for staff working in Core Home Office and Border and Immigration Agency, people management has been devolved to a local line management level, with units either commissioning the investigation into complaints of harassment using HR staff or non HR staff who are specifically trained to conduct these types of investigation. Line managers are only required to inform HR at the conclusion of the process, and therefore the figures supplied are those that have been reported to HR by line managers, and recorded centrally.

The Public Sector Prison Service does not have systems in place that hold centrally validated information in respect of complaints of sexual harassment and such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Extradition: Libya

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what agreements exist between the UK and Libya on the *(a)* forced repatriation and *(b)* extradition of nationals. [136162]

Mr. Byrne: Most removals to Libya under Immigration Act powers are undertaken on the basis of international conventions and practice, rather than bilateral arrangements. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries concerning the provision of assurances in respect of persons subject to deportation was signed on 18 October 2005.

There are no general extradition arrangements between the two countries. The UK and Libya, however, are parties to various international conventions under which extradition in respect of certain specific offences may be possible. The Extradition Act 2003 also allows the UK to consider entering into special extradition arrangements in individual cases.

Illegal Immigrants: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices have been issued to illegal workers from *(a)* Bulgaria and *(b)* Romania since 1 January 2007; and what percentage of those have been paid. [126431]

John Reid: As of 29 April, 42 fixed penalty notices have been served, of which 38 on Romanian nationals and four on Bulgarian nationals.

Almost two thirds of these penalty notices have been paid in full within the 21 day period. A further 11 of them have yet to reach their due payment date.

Immigrants

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number of irregular migrants *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* the rest of Europe. [134816]

Mr. Byrne: As the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has published estimates for the sizes of the unauthorised migrant population for a selection of other countries in Europe on their website at: http://www.oecd.org. The following table is taken from the 'International Migration Outlook' publication.

International Migration Outlook—ISBN_92-64-03627-X-©_OECD_2006—Part 1

Table 1.6: Estimates of the unauthorised immigrant population, selected OECD countries

		Number	*Percentage of total*	*Method of estimation*
2005	Australia	50,000	0.2	Double card system
2005	Japan	210,000	0.2	Double card system
2004 (18)	United States	10,300,000	3.6	Residual method
2004	Netherlands	125,000-230,000	0.8-1.4	Capture/recapture
2005	Switzerland	80,000-100,000	1.1-1.5	Delphi method
2005 (4)	Spain	690,000	1.6	Regularisation
2002 (4)	Italy	700,000	1.2	Regularisation
2001 (6)	Portugal	185,000	1.8	Regularisation
2001 (3)	Greece	370,000	3.4	Regularisation

Note:
The number in parentheses indicates the number of years since the previous major regularisation. The regularisation numbers cover only persons applying and thus are a lower bound for the number of unauthorised immigrants.
Sources:
Australia, Japan, southern European countries: national SOPEMI reports.
United States: Van Hook, Bean and Passel 2005.
Netherlands: Snel et al. 2005.
Switzerland: GFS 2005.

Immigration: Bulgaria

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings he *(a)* has held and *(b)* plans to hold with representatives of the Romanian and Bulgarian communities to discuss the operation of the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006. [131258]

Mr. Byrne: I have personally not met with any representatives of the Bulgarian and Romanian communities to discuss the operation of the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006. Nor has a request been made to do so.

Officials from the Border and Immigration Agency are in regular contact with officials at the Romanian and Bulgarian embassies in the United Kingdom. They participated in two seminars on the operation of the transitional arrangements in December 2006 and will continue to participate in any future events arranged.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fines have been issued since 1 January 2007 to *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian workers found to be working illegally in the UK. [131259]

Mr. Byrne: As of 29 April, 42 fixed penalty notices have been served; 38 on Romanian nationals and four on Bulgarian nationals.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers have been fined since 1 January 2007 for employing *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian workers illegally. [131260]

Mr. Byrne: As of 29 April, no employers have been prosecuted for employing Romanian and Bulgarian nationals without the correct permission to work in the United Kingdom, as we have been working with employers in other ways to ensure compliance with the Regulations which govern the employment of Romanian and Bulgarian nationals.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence workers from Romania and Bulgaria are required to produce to demonstrate their self-employed status under the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006. [131282]

Mr. Byrne: Bulgarian and Romanian nationals engaged in self-employed activities are subject to the same regulatory regime as a UK national engaged in such an activity. The same level of evidence is required as would be necessary for a UK national to establish that activity undertaken is genuine self-employment.

Nationals from the two states in question are not required to carry at all times documentation confirming their status in the United Kingdom. A worker's employment status for tax and National Insurance purposes is determined by the terms and conditions under which they work and is based on case law. Should they be questioned regarding their activities by an Immigration official conducting an illegal working investigation, that official will seek to establish if the activity being undertaken is genuine self-employment. It is the responsibility of both the worker and those he purports to provide services for to ensure that the relationship is one of genuine self-employment, and not an attempt to mask an employer-employee relationship.

Intelligence Services: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the adequacy of surveillance resources and expertise available to work on counter-terrorism; and whether the new MI5 Director has requested any additional resources. [136241]

Mr. McNulty: It would not be appropriate for me to comment in specific detail about the operational capacity of the security and intelligence agencies.

Police: Animals

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police *(a)* dogs and *(b)* horses (i) were recruited and (ii) were in service in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police force area; [137153]

(2) what the total cost is of fully training a police *(a)* horse and *(b)* dog; and how long it takes in each case; [137154]

(3) how many and what percentage of police *(a)* horses and *(b)* dogs (i) retired and (ii) were destroyed in each of the last 10 years; [137155]

(4) how many animals are employed by the police in England and Wales, broken down by species. [137156]

Mr. McNulty: The required information is not collected as part of the police service strength data series.

Police: Bicycles

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police bicycles are owned by police forces in England and Wales; and what the cost was of each bicycle. [137168]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for the Chief Officer and the police authority.

Police: Complaints

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in England and Wales since the IPCC was established, broken down by police authority area and ranked in descending order of number of complaints. [137409]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not collect the information requested.

Social Workers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many social workers in England have had a Criminal Records Bureau check. [118973]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The figure for the number of social workers in England who have had a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check is not available.

All social workers in England must be registered with the General Social Care Council (GSCC) and as part of this registration, must declare details of any criminal record. The accuracy of this information is confirmed by their employer who will have carried out any necessary criminal record checks. Details of these checks, linked to occupation, are not separately recorded by the Department, the GSCC or the CRB.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Disease Control

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what action his Department is taking to improve the control of tropical diseases in Africa. [137087]

Hilary Benn: Tackling tropical and other communicable diseases in Africa is a UK priority. Through DFID's bilateral programme, the UK supports African countries

to develop strong and sustainable health services to address illness, including tropical diseases. For example, in Malawi DFID has committed £100 million to develop and implement the national health plan and increase the number of health workers who can provide basic health care. DFID also supports specific projects to tackle specific diseases, for example the £47.4 million Malaria programme in Kenya will provide long-lasting insecticide-treated bednets.

The UK also supports global and regional initiatives. For example, DFID:

contributed £7.6 million to the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control;

committed £359 million to 2008 to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria and contributed £49 million to the WHO-led initiative, Roll Back Malaria;

provided £91.9 million (2000-06) to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation, a public-private partnership focused on increasing children's access to vaccines in poor countries;

has committed a further £1.38 billion to the International Financing Facility for Immunization (IFFIm) from 2006-26 to develop vaccines;

provides funding directly to the World Health Organisation (e.g. $255 million in the 2004-05 biennium), the World Bank and the European Commission in the fight against tropical and communicable diseases;

finances critical research, including £10 million to the Medicines for Malaria Venture and £6.5 million to the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative over the next three years.

Africa: Females

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve the *(a)* cultural status and *(b)* economic condition of women in sub-Saharan Africa. [137105]

Hilary Benn: DFID has engaged in a wide range of project, programme and policy efforts designed to improve the cultural, economic and political situation of women in sub-Saharan Africa.

The third White Paper on International Development (published July 2006), "Eliminating world poverty: making governance work for the poor", underlined DFID's commitment to give greater priority to work to support gender equality and women's rights in our development assistance, responding to key priorities of African institutions like the African Union (AU) and New partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Our gender equality action plan (launched March 2007) sets out how we will meet these commitments. DFID is further strengthening its analysis of gender equality through country governance assessments and through discussions with partner governments and regional institutions such as the AU. This will enable DFID to support efforts on women's empowerment and equality, including the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. DFID will continue to support efforts to increase girls' enrolment in primary school, reduce HIV prevalence among women and girls, reduce maternal mortality, give social protection for the very poorest women and increase employment opportunities.

Examples of initiatives to address these issues include the following.

In Sudan, DFID is empowering women in some of the poorest, marginalised communities as they learn to read and write assisted by the literacy and livelihood programme as well as supporting social marketing of mosquito nets, specifically targeting pregnant women and mothers of children under five.

In Ethiopia DFID is a key contributor to the Government's productive safety nets programme which targets some of the most vulnerable households such as those headed by women.

In Nigeria DFID has contributed to a girls' education programme improving net enrolment for girls especially in northern Nigeria, by addressing cultural and economic barriers. The security, justice and growth programme, through partnership with the Centre for Islamic Legal Studies, has carried out path-breaking analytical work on women's rights under Sharia law.

DFID is supporting efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation; this includes the production of a best practice resource for civil society groups to encourage strong and appropriate legislation to protect women and children against this practice.

We have formed a partnership with the International Finance Cooperation to undertake gender and growth analysis in a number of African countries including Tanzania, Rwanda and Nigeria. This is expected to lead to concrete changes in legislation and new investments.

DFID is providing support to the World Bank's gender action plan, which has a particular focus on Africa including the launch of new programmes focused on women's economic empowerment.

Concept Notes

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of responses to concept notes submitted to his Department were delayed in each of the last five years. [135627]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not keep a central record of the response rates achieved under the various funding schemes run across the Department. Information for two of the largest current schemes is as follows:

Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF)

UK-based civil society organisations seeking support are required to submit a two-page concept note any time between 1 February and 15 June each year. These concept notes are registered by the Civil Society Team in DFID. An acknowledgment is then sent to the applicant within three days of receipt, and the concept note is passed to our external contracted evaluation team.

Our guidelines state that any applicant submitting a CSCF concept note can expect a decision within four weeks of our acknowledgement of receipt. Over the past five years, our contractors have been unable to meet this deadline in fewer than 6 per cent. of cases, i.e. for 69 out of 1216 concept notes.

	Number of concept notes	Number responded to within deadline	Number delayed	Percentage delayed
2006-07	294	255	39	13
2005-06	292	289	3	1
2004-05	157	155	2	1.3
2003-04	228	217	11	4.8
2002-03	245	221	24	9.8
Total	1216	1147	69	5.7

Conflict and Humanitarian Fund

This fund has only been running for three years. Applications may be submitted either for Unearmarked (also known as Programmatic) funding or for Project funding. For Project funding there is a two-stage process under which applicants submit a short concept note and are then informed whether their application has been rejected or shortlisted for further consideration.

The figures for delays in informing applicants whether their concept notes had been shortlisted are as follows:

	Number of concept notes	Number responded to within deadline	Number delayed	Percentage delayed
2007-08	95	8	87	[1]91.6
2006-07	66	66	0	—
2005-06	86	82	4	5
Total	247	156	91	36.8

[1] The Guidelines said that applicants would be informed by 31 March 2007 whether their concept notes had been shortlisted. Applicants were informed on 16 March 2007 that there would be a delay in letting them know whether their concepts had been short-listed (this delay was caused by bereavement). They were informed whether their proposals had been short-listed by 13 April 2007.

International Assistance: Health

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that G8 Ministers adopt a statement on strengthening health systems in developing countries in their June communiqué. [137869]

Mr. Thomas: The Presidency of the G8 has already proposed a statement within the text for the G8 declaration on health system strengthening, and the UK is working to help strengthen it further.

Overseas Aid: Applications

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of responses to full funding applications submitted to his Department were delayed in each of the last five years. [135628]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not keep a central record of the response rates achieved under the various funding schemes run across the Department. Information for three of the largest current schemes is given as follows.

Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) and Development Awareness Fund (DAF):

In each of the last five years, final decisions about CSCF and DAF proposals have been rescheduled beyond original target dates, as a result of external circumstances and the need to carry out thorough due diligence checks across a wide range of organisations. In all cases, applicants have been kept fully informed about revised timetables and delays have been kept to a minimum (no greater than four weeks and usually significantly less). We inform all applicants of the results of their applications at the same time.

Conflict and Humanitarian Fund:

This fund has only been running for three years. Applications may be submitted either for Unearmarked (also known as Programmatic) funding or for project funding. There are two different application processes for these. For Unearmarked funding there is a one stage process, under which applicants submit a statement of intent. For project funding there is a two-stage process, under which applicants submit a short concept note. If their application is short-listed they are invited to submit a full project proposal. Figures for delays in informing applicants whether their concepts had been short-listed are provided in the answer I gave the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green today (UIN 135627). The figures for delays in informing applicants of decisions on full project proposals and statements of intent are as follows:

	Number	Number responded to within deadline	Number delayed	Percentage delayed
2007-08[1]	—	—	—	—
2006-07				
Full project proposals (FPP)	12	0	12	[2]100
Statements of intent (SOI)	31	18	13	41.9
2005-06				
Full project proposals (FPP)	13	0	13	[3]100
Statements of intent (SOI)	29	2	27	93.1
Total	85	20	65	76.5

[1] Deadline for submission of full project proposals was 1 May. Applications currently being assessed.

[2] The indicative time-table in the Guidelines for the 2006 competition said DFID would aim to inform applicants of the final decision on their proposals on 16 June 2006. In the event they were informed on 30 June 2006, except for one application on which there were further issues to resolve.

[3] In the Guidelines for the 2005 competition DFID said they would aim to inform applicants of the outcome of the appraisal process by 15 September 2005. In the event all except six of the applicants were informed of DFID's decision by 24 September 2005.

Overseas Aid: Primary Education

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the increase in enrolment in primary schooling in countries receiving UK aid to help finance abolition of school

fees is represented by *(a)* children transferring from private and unregulated schools to the state sector and *(b)* children who previously received no schooling. [137744]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's financing of education plans is largely provided through general and sector budget support and it is not possible to disaggregate our support to show precisely how much has gone towards *(a)* children transferring from private and unregulated schools to the state sector and *(b)* children who previously received no schooling. Where there have been increases in enrolment as a result of the abolition of school fees, only aggregate data are available, it is not possible to identify where the extra children have come from. The primary source of global data on enrolment of school children is the Education for All Global Monitoring Report. The 2007 Report was launched on 26 October and may be accessed via:

http://www.unesco.org/education/GMR/2007/Full_report.pdf.

The UK's support to education is provided through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Education For All Fast Track Initiative. DFID provides bilateral support to partner governments to help them develop and implement their own education sector plans. Particular attention is given to getting children into school through removing school fees, providing equipment, building new schools, as well as through paying teachers adequate salaries and providing professional development opportunities for them.

Between 2000 and 2005 many countries abolished school fees, including Lesotho (2000), Cambodia (2001), Zambia (2002), Kenya (2003), Mozambique (2004), Vietnam (2004) and Burundi (2005). In Kenya, this led to an additional 1.2 million students entering the school system. In Burundi, almost 500,000 additional primary school pupils arrived to enrol on the first day of school, double the number anticipated. Removing school fees increases enrolment but also makes it necessary to plan for the surge in order to maintain adequate quality.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department expects to make the 2005 single farm payment to Mr Francis, a constituent of the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey. [137868]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has checked its records and owing to there being several customers with the same surname in the Kent region RPA is unable to identify the Mr. Francis in question. In order to state when this payment will be made RPA will require Mr. Francis' Single Business Identifier (SBI) number.

Avian Influenza: Disease Control

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what contingency planning his Department is undertaking to be able to respond effectively in the event of an outbreak of avian influenza in the UK; [137622]

(2) what his Department's state of preparedness is for any future outbreak of avian influenza. [137623]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department has robust and tested disease control plans and instructions in place to address an outbreak of avian influenza. These are set out in our Exotic Animal Disease Generic Contingency Plan. The plans and procedures are kept under close review.

The latest Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases was laid before Parliament on 13 December 2006. The plan was used effectively and successfully in partnership with operational bodies and interested parties to deal with the recent outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza in Suffolk.

We are also continuing to work with interested parties to learn lessons from that outbreak to ensure we remain fully prepared for any future outbreak. A report will be published in the autumn.

Climate Change

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to communicate to the public *(a)* the causes of climate change, *(b)* the impact on the United Kingdom and the wider world of climate change and *(c)* the possible solutions to climate change. [135658]

Ian Pearson: The current "Act on CO_2" campaign supports a range of multi media, tools and activities aimed at educating, informing and enabling individuals to think about changing their behaviours and to adopt lower carbon lifestyles to help tackle climate change. Through the Climate Challenge Fund, over 80 local and community-level projects are communicating the causes and impacts of climate change.

Last year's influential Stern Review on climate change continues to raise awareness, both domestically and globally, of the impacts and costs associated with climate change. DEFRA has supported, and was well represented at, the IPCC meetings ensuring that the messages contained in the summary reports are robust and based on sound science.

DEFRA funds the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) to advise organisations on how they might be affected by climate change, so that they can adapt to its impacts. Among other activities, UKCIP works with the Met Office Hadley Centre to provide climate change scenarios for the UK (the next of which are due for publication in 2008); provides tools for stakeholders to assess climate risk and plan adaptation strategies; and coordinates research about how climate change will affect the UK at national and regional levels.

Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many times the Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance has met since 8 November 2006; [137072]

(2) when he expects the Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance to report; and what the reasons are for the delay in reporting. [137073]

Ian Pearson: The Commission for Environmental Markets and Economic Performance has met twice since 8 November 2006. The first meeting was on 19 December 2006 and the second on 5 March 2007. A final meeting is planned for 20 June 2007. In addition, Commission members have met informally on a number of occasions during this time, in workshops, meetings and other forums.

When the Commission was set up, the expectation was that it would report in spring 2007. The majority of its work will have been completed within this timetable, but we now anticipate that the final conclusions of the Commission will be available before the summer Parliamentary recess.

The main reason for this slight delay has been the challenge of finding convenient dates for meetings in members' busy diaries.

Environment Agency: Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many registered companies were *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully prosecuted by the Environment Agency in each financial year since 1999; and what the average fine was in cases of successful prosecutions, broken down by (i) region and (ii) category of offence. [137850]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is not held centrally. I have asked my officials to gather the information and I will write to the hon. Member with further details in due course and place copies of the letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the total cost to the UK economy of the first phase of the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme. [137523]

Ian Pearson: An exercise carried out last year, looking at the regulations in force as at May 2005, estimated that the administrative cost to businesses in phase I of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme was around £175,000 for all 511 installations in England and Wales.

For phase II, the total administrative cost (including Scotland and Northern Ireland) is estimated to be around £125,000. This is lower than in phase I as all installations already have Greenhouse Gas (GHG) permits.

Further estimates of the costs to the UK of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme are available in the Regulatory impact assessments published by DEFRA. Copies of these are available in the Library of the House.

A tiered approach to subsistence charges and permit application fees has been adopted, where the charges reflect the scale of emissions from the installation. This is consistent with cost-reflectivity principles.

Following lessons learnt from phase I of the scheme, the Government have introduced a de minimis threshold and revised the interpretation of the definition of a ceramics site. 10 per cent. of installations have been removed from phase II of the scheme covering less than 0.3 per cent. of scheme emissions. The revision of the ceramics definition is expected to remove around 30 installations, representing 0.08 per cent. of total emissions within the scheme.

The Environment Agency commissioned a study that looked at the cost of compliance in the EU ETS. It found that in the first year of the scheme the costs for smaller emitters (emitting less than 10KtCO_2 a year) were between £1.08 and £2.77 per tonne of CO_2.

It is difficult to get an accurate picture of the actual cost of compliance as Government do not have access to the prices businesses pay for allowances. The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) for phase II of the scheme estimates that the cost of the scheme to the UK economy could be between £80 million and £640 million per year. This cost assumes a certain level of abatement will take place within the UK and also that the UK will purchase some allowances from the market. The final cost will therefore depend on the market price of carbon.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of UK businesses that have decided to migrate from participation in the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme following changes made to the 'de minimis' threshold of the scheme between its first phase and its second phase. [137557]

Ian Pearson: A voluntary 'de minimis' threshold was introduced for Phase II of the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) due to the disproportionate burden placed on some installations by participation in the scheme.

94 installations successfully applied to the 'de minimis' threshold and these will be excluded from Phase II. This has led to the removal of 10 per cent. of installations from the scheme, covering less than 0.3 per cent. of scheme emissions. Emissions at these installations are likely to be covered by the proposed Energy Performance Commitment or by Climate Change Agreements.

European Environment Council of Ministers

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he expects to be accompanied by the Environment Ministers from the *(a)* Scottish Executive, *(b)* Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* Northern Ireland Executive at the informal meeting of the European Environment Council of Ministers on 1 June. [136979]

Ian Pearson: No.

Fuel Oil: Storage

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will undertake a review of the environmental sustainability of the practice of locating sealed fuel oil tanks beneath domestic residences; and if he will make a statement. [136614]

Ian Pearson: The need for environmental protection should be taken into account when locating fuel tanks and associated pipe-work underground. In 2002, DEFRA produced a groundwater protection code of practice for underground fuel dispensing facilities which, although aimed at commercial premises, highlights risks and good practice which might read across to domestic premises.

The Building Regulations do not currently apply to underground tanks but there are powers under the Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004 to make building regulations to deal with wider environmental issues if this is shown to be necessary and capable of effective enforcement.

I have recently asked my officials to liaise with other relevant Departments and advise me further on this issue. I will write to the hon. Member with further details in due course and place copies of the letter in the Libraries of both Houses. In the meantime, the Environment Agency has powers under the Groundwater Regulations 1998, to prohibit or control the underground storage of hydrocarbons, and to prosecute if pollution occurs.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Hedon

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the proposed site for BASF's GM potatoes in Hedon, East Yorkshire; [133985]

(2) whether he plans to approve the proposed site for BASF's experimental trials of GM potatoes in Hedon, East Yorkshire. [133986]

Ian Pearson: The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment has considered relevant information on the proposed site and is satisfied that the trials will not have any adverse effect on human health or the environment. In the light of this we have granted a statutory consent to BASF, valid until 2011. BASF will not use the East Yorkshire site for trials this year, but may do so in future years.

Ivory

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will use his vote at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora conference in the Netherlands in June this year to support the 20 year moratorium proposal relating to elephant conservation; and if he will make it his policy to oppose further calls to trade in ivory. [138073]

Barry Gardiner: No decision has yet been made on whether a one-off ivory sale should go ahead. The UK will only support this if all conditions previously agreed by the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 2002 have been met. The UK is currently considering the evidence to decide whether those criteria have been met and will also look to be informed by the African Elephant Dialogue meeting that will take place between 30 May-1 June, immediately prior to the CITES Standing Committee.

Nevertheless, the UK continues to support the global ban on any general commercial trade in ivory, a ban which has been in place since 1989. If any one-off sale is agreed, we would not expect to agree any further sales or annual quotas until the effects of such an event have been assessed. However, the concept of a fixed period moratorium is not in keeping with the way that CITES operates, where decisions are taken on the best scientific and trade data available at any time.

Livestock: Exports

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will end the practice of live calf exports to continental veal units. [138077]

Mr. Bradshaw: The UK cannot place a unilateral ban on the export of calves as this would contravene free trade rules and be illegal under EU law.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites of special scientific interest have been identified by Natural England as requiring a *(a)* management notice and *(b)* management scheme to secure their condition. [137527]

Barry Gardiner: To date, one management scheme has been served. Natural England is currently identifying and assessing the appropriateness of a number of other potential management schemes. It is envisaged that two further schemes will be served before March 2008. It is not possible, at this time, to predict how many management schemes might require subsequent enforcement by way of a management notice. A management notice can be considered only where an owner or occupier has not given effect to a management scheme.

Sustainable Development: Government Departments

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to ensure that buildings on the Government Estate meet green building targets; and what steps have been taken in response to the National Audit Office's Report "Building for the Future: Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment on the Government Estate". [137356]

Ian Pearson: The UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan which was published on 5 March 2007, sets out detailed plans about how the

Government will move towards a sustainably built and managed central government estate. This includes using sustainable procurement to make rapid progress against the cross-government sustainable operations targets announced in June 2006.

The Government welcome the publication of the National Audit Office's Report on Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment on the Government Estate. Officials from the Office of Government Commerce and DEFRA will be providing further evidence in response to the Report at a Public Accounts Committee hearing in late June. I cannot go into detail in terms of next steps for responding to the NAO's report before the hearing date, as this would pre-empt the Committee hearing.

Warm Front Scheme

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he expects the review of Warm Front prices will take of regional variations in the capacity to deliver warm front scheme projects. [135812]

Ian Pearson: The Warm Front price review considers the cost of the purchase and installation of measures under the scheme against national average prices, which can be broken down by region.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Alan Johnston

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking to secure the safe return of the BBC journalist Alan Johnston; and if she will make a statement. [138242]

Mr. Hoon: We are extremely concerned by the kidnap of Alan Johnston and remain actively engaged in efforts to secure his safe release. We are in close touch with the Palestinian Authority, BBC and Alan's family. Our thoughts are with them at this difficult time.

We have called for his unconditional release and continue to do so.

The hon. Member will understand that we are not able to go into more detail at this stage.

Australia: Prince Charles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when HRH the Prince of Wales last visited *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand. [138211]

Mr. McCartney: His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales last visited Australia and New Zealand in 2005. The exact dates are Australia from 25 February to 6 March and New Zealand from 6 to 10 March.

Australia: Queen Elizabeth II

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether HM the Queen has visited New Zealand in the last five years. [138214]

Mr. McCartney: Her Majesty the Queen visited New Zealand from 22 to 27 February 2002.

Departments: Manpower

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff were employed by each *(a)* team and *(b)* programme within the Europe Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in each year since 1990. [137581]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not record or compile annual data on the number of staff working in individual teams or programmes within FCO directorates. To carry out the research to collate this information would incur disproportionate cost.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the administration costs were to the UK of phase one of the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme; what the projected administration costs are of phase two of the scheme; and what proportion of these costs will be borne by the smaller 50 per cent. of UK businesses. [137522]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

An exercise carried out last year, looking at the regulations in force as at May 2005, estimated that the administrative cost to businesses in Phase I of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme was around £175,000 for all 511 installations in England and Wales.

For Phase II, the total administrative cost (including Scotland and Northern Ireland) is estimated to be around £125,000. This is lower than in Phase I as all installations already have Greenhouse Gas (GHG) permits.

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Galileo Project

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial contribution the UK is making to the EU Galileo satellite project; what further requests for funding are anticipated; what steps she is taking to ensure that Galileo is not used for military purposes; and if she will make a statement. [136602]

Mr. Hoon: The Galileo programme is jointly funded by the European Commission and the European Space Agency (ESA). The UK has contributed €142 million through ESA and, through contributions to the EU budget, approximately 17 per cent. of the estimated €790 million that the Commission has invested in the programme. The Commission is currently considering funding options for 2007-13, which will require agreement by the Council and the European Parliament. As my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Transport, Dr. Ladyman, set out in his written ministerial statement on the EU Transport Council on 18 October 2006, *Official Report*, columns 54-56WS, the UK will continue to maintain that Galileo is a civil programme under civil control.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice Ministers, her officials and ambassadors gave to their counterparts in the United States prior to the disbandment of the Iraqi army and the de-Ba'athification programme in May 2003. [137129]

Dr. Howells: The detail of exchanges between the Government and the US Administration in 2003 remains confidential. Events moved very quickly in the aftermath of the removal of Saddam Hussein and it should be remembered that by the end of the initial hostilities the Iraqi army had effectively dissolved itself—there were no formed units, no equipment and all barracks had been comprehensively looted. At the same time throughout Iraq there was overwhelming popular pressure for de-Ba'athification to begin, reflecting the suffering and resentment among ordinary Iraqis as a consequence of three decades of repression by Saddam Hussein's regime.

Middle East

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the implications for British policy in the Middle East of the recently published World Bank report "Movement and Access Restrictions in the West Bank: Uncertainty and Inefficiency in the Palestinian Economy". [136887]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

I welcome the recent World Bank report, the preparation of which was financed by DFID, and I broadly agree with its conclusions. Free movement and access are essential for Palestinians to be able to trade goods and services. The UK has repeatedly called on both parties to implement their obligations as set out in the November 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. We have also regularly raised concerns with the government of Israel concerning their policies in Jerusalem, which threaten to cut off east Jerusalem from the west bank.

The best prospect for lasting improvements in movement and access is through the peace process. DFID's programme therefore aims to work with partners to help end the conflict and create a viable Palestinian state. As part of this, we help develop Palestinian institutions where possible, and support Palestinian negotiators to move towards and prepare for a negotiated just peace. The UK also funds work to generate media awareness of movement and access restrictions, and to petition the Israeli High Court of Justice on such issues.

Papua: Politics and Government

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to appoint an honorary consul to Papua and West Papua. [137102]

Mr. McCartney: There are no plans to appoint an honorary consul to either Papua or West Papua provinces, consular cover for these provinces is provided by our embassy in Jakarta. In addition, officials from the embassy visit regularly to assess the situation and to identify areas where we can help the people of Papua and West Papua.

The UK's policy on Papua is that we support the territorial integrity of Indonesia and therefore do not support independence for the province of Papua. We believe that the best way to resolve the complex issues in Papua is through promoting peaceful dialogue between Papuan groups and the Indonesian Government. We believe that full implementation of existing special autonomy legislation is the best way to proceed towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous Papua province.

Treaty of Rome: Anniversaries

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by *(a)* the UK Government and *(b)* the EU institutions on celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome in the UK. [137520]

Mr. Hoon: To celebrate this anniversary, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Education and Skills and the British Council launched a year-long initiative in March called "Learning Together". This initiative will make information available to UK schools about the range of opportunities to develop partnerships with schools across Europe and help schools that have not previously taken part in international activities to get involved.

£16,618 has been spent so far on "Learning Together". The total budget is £102,418.

Requests for information on funding by the EU institutions can be made directly to the European Commission Representation and the European Parliament Representation in the United Kingdom.

Uganda: Royal Visits

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contingency plans her Department has made for the anti-government demonstrations planned during the Queen's visit to Uganda; and if she will make a statement. [137530]

Mr. McCartney: We have seen media reports about threatened anti-government demonstrations to be held during Her Majesty The Queen's visit to Uganda in November. It is not clear at this stage if any demonstrations will actually take place, but we continue to impress upon the Ugandan opposition the importance of respecting the rule of law and conducting peaceful political protest

The Ugandan authorities would be responsible for ensuring the security arrangements during any such protest. As with any state visit, we will work closely with the Ugandan authorities and keep those security arrangements under close review. Following the recent violent demonstrations in Kampala, we are also talking to the Ugandan government and to the opposition about developing a 'code of conduct' for running and policing demonstrations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received in the last six months on radiation produced by mobile telephone masts; and if she will make a statement. [138106]

Meg Munn: I have received several letters from Members of Parliament and others about telecommunications and planning policy, some of which refer to the radiation produced by mobile telephone masts. In addition, officials have dealt with correspondence, e-mails and telephone queries on this issue.

Building Research Establishment: Disclosure of Information

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make information about non-traditional construction held by the Building Research Establishment publicly available. [134177]

Angela E. Smith: The release of information owned and held by the Building Research Establishment is a matter for its management, and I have no responsibility for its operations.

Construction: Electromagnetic Fields

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her response is to the conclusion contained in the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electronic and Magnetic Fields report that a ban on building new homes and schools near power lines is the best available option for obtaining a significant reduction in exposure to power frequency electric and magnetic fields to protect public health; and if she will make a statement. [137662]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Dartford (Dr. Stoate) on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 704W.

Construction: Manpower

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure there are sufficient numbers of skilled builders to facilitate the meeting of her zero carbon target for all new homes by 2016. [137399]

Yvette Cooper: We are in discussion with the Home Builders Federation and other industry representatives to put in place measures to ensure that those in the housebuilding industry have the necessary skills to deliver zero carbon new homes by 2016.

Departments: Greater London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's responsibilities are with respect to London, broken down by policy area; what responsibilities she holds jointly with the Mayor of London; and if she will make a statement. [138513]

Yvette Cooper: The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for national policy related to local and regional government, housing, planning, fire and resilience, neighbourhood renewal, community cohesion and equalities in England, including London.

The Mayor of London's statutory responsibilities are set out in the Greater London Authority Act 1999, and will be enhanced through the Greater London Authority Bill currently proceeding through Parliament. These responsibilities cover strategic planning, fire services and—with the completion of the Bill—housing in London.

The Mayor also has a general power to promote economic and social development and improve the environment in London.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Mayor of London have distinct statutory responsibilities in relation to strategic planning, housing and fire services, and none of the Secretary of State's statutory responsibilities are held jointly with the Mayor.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department and its predecessor held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136858]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1759W. Ministers have held no meetings with Sovereign Strategy since my earlier answer. It would entail disproportionate cost to provide the information requested for predecessor Departments for the whole period since 1997.

Homelessness: Hostels

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 657W, on homelessness: hostels, when her Department expects to publish its review of hostels for rough sleepers in London. [136532]

Yvette Cooper: The review of hostels for rough sleepers in London has now been finalised and we anticipate a June publication.

Housing: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people living *(a)* in the Chelmsford Local Authority area and *(b)* outside the Chelmsford Local Authority area are on the Chelmsford housing waiting list; and what the figures were in 1997. [132413]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* Local authorities in England report the numbers of households (not people) on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. However, the information is not broken down by whether the household is living within or outside the local authority district.

The number of households on Chelmsford borough council's housing waiting list, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is as follows and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1163853

Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get on to the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Housing: Children

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many children were registered as living in *(a)* temporary accommodation, *(b)* non-decent accommodation and *(c)* overcrowded accommodation in each London borough in each year since 1997. [130743]

Yvette Cooper: Information on children in temporary accommodation is only available from 2004. Figures for local authorities in London are provided in the following table.

Number of children in temporary accommodation[1] on 31 December 2004-06: by London local authority

Local authority	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Barking and Dagenham	589	614	958
Barnet	[2]	3,003	[2]
Bexley	632	598	612
Brent	7,087	6,742	5,933
Bromley	[2]	1,087	1,271
Camden	2,438	2,703	2,319
City of London	54	0	28
Croydon	5,006	4,325	3,547
Ealing	[2]	3,640	3,362
Enfield	6,649	6,890	[2]
Greenwich	523	842	963
Hackney	3,165	3,155	2,900
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,649	2,767	2,786
Haringey	[2]	6,442	[2]
Harrow	2,526	2,373	2,298
Havering	802	1,013	675
Hillingdon	3,394	2,552	2,482
Hounslow	[2]	1,500	[2]
Islington	[2]	1,735	[2]
Kensington and Chelsea	[2]	[2]	346
Kingston upon Thames	[2]	[2]	[2]
Lambeth	2,068	2,450	2,970
Lewisham	1,931	2,445	2,740
Merton	195	108	87
Newham	[2]	[2]	[2]
Redbridge	[2]	3,554	[2]
Richmond upon Thames	545	582	496
Southwark	680	1,016	1,352
Sutton	699	765	656
Tower Hamlets	4,918	4,469	3,963
Waltham Forest	2,189	3,924	4,290
Wandsworth	2,012	1,863	1,587
Westminster	[2]	[2]	[2]

[1] Households in temporary accommodation (excluding applicants recorded as homeless at home) on the last day of the quarter, as arranged by a local housing authority as a discharge of their statutory homelessness functions.
[2] Local authority did not report.
Source:
P1E quarterly returns

Estimates of the number of children living in non-decent homes or in overcrowded households in each London borough is not available.

Local Authorities: Climate Change

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many whole-time equivalent staff were employed *(a)* as climate change officers and *(b)* in other posts with responsibility for climate change by English local authorities in each of the last five years. [135051]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* The Government do not hold this information centrally.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discussions she has had with employers' organisations on the availability of appropriate sites and facilities for manufacturing start-up businesses and other small and medium-sized enterprises in the manufacturing sector; [131806]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure that local authorities provide sufficient land and accommodation to meet the needs of small and medium-sized manufacturing companies; [131807]

(3) what discussions she has had with the Local Government Association on the availability of appropriate sites for start-ups of small and medium-sized businesses in the manufacturing sector. [132078]

Meg Munn: The Secretary of State meets a range of organisations, but has had no specific discussions with employers' organisations or with the Local Government Association about sites and facilities needed for start-up businesses and other small and medium-sized enterprises in the manufacturing sector.

National planning policy set out in Planning Policy Guidance 4: "Industrial, commercial development and small firms" asks local planning authorities to ensure that there is a sufficient quantity and variety of land available to meet the differing needs of businesses. Local planning authorities should also ensure that there is sufficient land available which is readily capable of development and well served by infrastructure.

Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities, in preparing and reviewing their development plans, should make a realistic assessment of the quantity of land likely to be needed in their areas to meet the needs of business and developers. That assessment should ensure that suitable locations are available for start-up businesses likely to come forward in the manufacturing sector as well as for small and medium-sized enterprises.

To assist planning authorities in assessing the overall demand for and supply of employment land, we have published "Employment Land Reviews: Guidance Note" (December 2004). This guidance seeks to help planning authorities assess the suitability of sites to accommodate employment development, to help protect the best sites in the face of competition from higher-value uses, and to help authorities to identify sites which are no longer needed for employment development and can be released for other uses, including for housing.

Manufacturing Industries: Kirklees

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to encourage Kirklees Metropolitan Council to provide more land for business start-ups and small and medium sized manufacturing enterprises. [131809]

Meg Munn: It is for Kirklees Metropolitan Council to determine the amount of land that is required to meet business needs in its local area in line with national planning policy set out in Planning Policy Guidance 4: 'Industrial, commercial development and small firms.'

Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities, in preparing and reviewing their development plans, should make a realistic assessment of the quantity of land likely to be needed in their areas to meet the needs of business and developers. That assessment should help local planning authorities to ensure that suitable locations are available for business start-ups and small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises likely to come forward.

Manufacturing Industries: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to discuss the provision of appropriate sites for manufacturing industry, particularly start-ups for small and medium-sized enterprises, with Yorkshire Forward. [131810]

Meg Munn: The Secretary of State has no plans to discuss with Yorkshire Forward the provision of appropriate sites for manufacturing industry, particularly start-ups for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Mobile Homes

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether park home owners are required, if requested by park home residents, to list all works undertaken on their behalf in cases where the increase in the pitch fee is below the retail price index. [136645]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* Implied Term 22(b)(i) of the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (Amendment of Schedule 1) (England) Order 2006 requires a park owner, if requested by the occupier, to provide (free of charge) a park home occupier with documentary evidence in support and explanation of any new pitch fee, including where the increase in pitch fee is below the retail price index.

Regional Planning and Development: Science

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the work of regional development agencies in the development of science cities. [135908]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

Six science cities make up the Science Cities Consortium Development Group. RDAs are partners with local authorities, universities, and business in the development of science cities in their regions. The consortium in each individual science city has taken forward its development according to the individual opportunities and challenges faced in each location.

It is too early to assess the impact of science cities. There has not, therefore, yet been any formal assessment of the effectiveness of the RDAs' work in this area. In any event, an assessment of the work of RDAs in particular would not tell the whole story, as RDAs are only one of the partnership organisations involved in the development of science cities.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the impact on access to means-tested social service support of the receipt of payment from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [135807]

Derek Twigg: Following the publication of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme 'Evaluation of First Year' report on 19 March 2007, Ministry of Defence officials are in discussion with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the impact of Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) awards on means-tested social services support. The principal focus is on the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme, reflecting the concerns raised by the ex-service community during the consultation for the evaluation report. It has been agreed that the AFCS will be included in any DCLG considerations arising from the recent public consultation on the Government's proposals to improve Disabled Facilities Grant Programme delivery.

Armed Forces: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Army Cadets based in Chorley to receive replacement rifles. [136960]

Derek Twigg: On current planning, the replacement weapons for the Cadet General Purpose and Drill Purpose rifles will be issued to Cadet Forces from September 2008 with the final weapons delivered in November 2009. A detailed fielding plan has not yet been developed. Until that time, the Cadets will continue to use their existing rifles for exercises and training.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force personnel are deployed in line with harmony guidelines. [128240]

Mr. Ingram: Deployment is one element of separated service that is taken into account in monitoring of the employment of personnel in line with the respective service harmony guideline.

Levels of separated service against harmony guidelines are reported in the Department's regular public service agreement performance reports and in its annual reports, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

The Department plans to publish further harmony figures for financial year 2006-07 in its spring performance report in the next few weeks.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour interval is of *(a)* 1st Battalion the Royal Welsh, *(b)* 1st Battalion the Scots Guards, *(c)* 19th Regiment Royal Artillery, *(d)* 5th Regiment Royal Artillery and *(e)* 39th Regiment Royal Artillery. [137348]

Mr. Ingram: The recent average tour intervals for the Army units listed are provided in the following table.

Regiment	*Operational deployments*	*Tour interval (months)*	*Date*	*Average (months)*
1st Battalion the Royal Welsh	Unit Deployed to:			
	Northern Ireland (June 2001 to November 2001)	29	December 2001 to April 2004	18
	Iraq (May 2004 to October 2004)	10	November 2004 to August 2005	
	Northern Ireland (September 2005 to January 2006) Theatre Reserve Battalion (May 2007 to May 2008)	15	February 2006 to April 2007	
1st Battalion the Scots Guards	Unit Deployed to:			
	Northern Ireland (May 2001 to November 2001) Iraq (February 2003 to June 2003)	14	December 2001 to January 2003	18
	Iraq (November 2004 to April 2005)	16	July 2003 to October 2004	
		25	To date	
			May 2005 to August 2007	

Regiment	Operational deployments	Tour interval (months)	Date	Average (months)
19th Regiment Royal Artillery	Unit Deployed to:			
	Iraq (May 2005 to November 2005) Afghanistan (May 2007 to October 2007)	17	December 2005 to April 2007	17
39th Regiment Royal Artillery	Unit Deployed to:			
	Northern Ireland (November 2002 to May 2003) Cyprus (October 2006 to April 2007) Now deploying as subunits in support of operations	40	June 2003 to September 2006	40
5th Regiment Royal Artillery	Deployed as subunits in support of operations to Operation Telic, Operation Herrick and Northern Ireland	n/a	n/a	n/a

As tour intervals are calculated by units rather than subunits, we are unable to calculate tour intervals for 5th Regiment Royal Artillery.

Armed Forces: Embassies

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which British embassies and high commissions have *(a)* a defence attaché, *(b)* a military attaché, *(c)* a Royal Naval attaché and *(d)* an air attaché; and if he will make a statement on the future funding of these posts. [136606]

Mr. Ingram: In each of the 79 countries listed the UK currently has a resident accredited Defence Attaché/Adviser (DA). In smaller posts, a singleton DA will also act as the de facto Military Attaché/Adviser (MA), Naval Attaché/Adviser (NA) and Air Attaché/Adviser (AA) to look after single service issues in addition to wider defence matters. To spread the work load, busier posts may have one or more additional accredited attaches/advisers who are subordinate to the DA. To align with the focus of the specific defence relationship with the host country, these individuals are often styled in more than one way: either as single service attachés/advisers in their own right, or in a combined roles (such as NA/AA or MA/NA); or simply as the Deputy or Assistant Defence Attachés/Advisers (covering issues across all three services). Where single service attachés are not specified the DA performs these roles where required. A number of other countries and overseas territories are covered on a non-resident basis. The current disposition of attachés/advisers is described in the following table.

	Country in which Attachés are resident	Countries and Overseas Territories covered on a non—resident basis	Defence Attaché (DA) (a)	Military Attaché (MA) (b)	Naval Attaché (NA) (c)	Air Attaché (AA) (d)
1	Albania		P	—	—	—
2	Algeria	Tunisia		—	—	—
3	Argentina	Uruguay, Paraguay	P	—	—	P
4	Australia	Papua New Guinea	P	MA/AA		
5	Austria	Switzerland	P		—	—
6	Bahrain		P		—	—
7	Bangladesh		P	—	—	—
8	Barbados	Grenada, St Vincent and Grenadines, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Puerto Rico	P	—	—	—
9	Bosnia and Herzegovina		P	—	—	—
10	Brazil	Venezuela	P	—	—	—
11	Brunei		P	—	—	—
12	Bulgaria		P	Deputy DA		
13	Canada		P	NA/AA		
14	Chile	Ecuador, Bolivia	P	—	—	—

	Country in which Attachés are resident	Countries and Overseas Territories covered on a non—resident basis	Defence Attaché (DA) (a)	Military Attaché (MA) (b)	Naval Attaché (NA) (c)	Air Attaché (AA) (d)
15	China[1]	Mongolia	P	P	NA/AA	
16	Colombia	Peru, Panama	P	—	—	—
17	Congo (DRC)	Angola, Congo, Gabon	P	—	—	—
18	Croatia		P	—	—	—
19	Cyprus		P	—	—	—
20	Czech Republic		P	—	—	—
21	Denmark		P	—	—	—
22	Egypt		P	NA/AA		
23	Ethiopia	Djibouti	P	—	—	—
24	Finland	Estonia	P	—	—	—
25	France		P	P	P	—
26	Georgia	Armenia, Azerbaijan	P		—	—
27	Germany		P	P	NA/AA	
28	Ghana	Ivory Coast, Togo	P	—	—	—
29	Greece		P	NA/AA		
30	Guatemala	El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Cuba	P	—	—	—
31	India[2]		P	NA/AA		
32	Indonesia	Democratic Republic of Timor Leste	P	—	—	—
33	Iraq		P	—	—	—
34	Ireland		P		—	—
35	Israel		P	NA/AA		
36	Italy	Malta	P	NA/AA		
37	Jamaica	Bahamas, Belize, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos	P	—	—	—
38	Japan		P	—	—	—
39	Jordan		P	—	—	—
40	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan	P	—	—	
41	Kenya	Eritrea, Tanzania, Seychelles	P	—	—	
42	Korea		P	NA/AA	—	—
43	Kuwait		P	—	—	—
44	Lebanon		P	—	—	—
45	Lithuania	Latvia	P	—	—	—
46	Macedonia		P	—	—	—
47	Malaysia	Vietnam	P	Assistant DA	—	—
48	Morocco	Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia	P	—	—	—
49	Nepal		P	Assistant MA		
50	New Zealand	Fiji, Tonga	P	—	—	—
51	Netherlands	Brussels, Luxembourg	P	—	—	—
52	Nigeria		P	—	—	—
53	Norway		P	—	—	—
54	Oman		P	NA/AA		
55	Pakistan		P	NA/AA		
56	Poland		P	NA/MA		
57	Portugal	Cape Verde	P	—	—	—
58	Qatar		P	—	—	—
59	Romania	Moldova	P	Assistant DA		
60	Russia[3]	Belarus, Turkmenistan	P	P	P	P
61	Saudi Arabia		P	NA/AA		
62	Serbia	Montenegro	P	—	—	—
63	Sierra Leone	Guinea, Liberia	P	—	—	—
64	Singapore		P	—	—	—
65	Slovakia	Hungary	P			

	Country in which Attachés are resident	Countries and Overseas Territories covered on a non-resident basis	Defence Attaché (DA) (a)	Military Attaché (MA) (b)	Naval Attaché (NA) (c)	Air Attaché (AA) (d)
66	South Africa	Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana Mauritius	P	NA/AA		
67	Spain		P	Deputy DA		
68	Sri Lanka	Maldives	P	—	—	—
69	Sudan		P	—	—	—
70	Sweden		P	—	—	—
71	Syria		P	—	—	—
72	Thailand		P	—	—	—
73	Turkey		P	NA/AA		
74	Uganda	Burundi, Rwanda	P	—	—	—
75	Ukraine		P	Deputy DA		
76	United Arab Emirates		P		—	—
77	United States of America[4]	Bermuda	P	—	—	—
78	Yemen		P	P	P	P
79	Zimbabwe	Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia	P	—	—	—

[1] Also supported by an Assistant MA.
[2] Also supported by an Assistant DA.
[3] Also supported by Assistant MA, Assistant MA and Assistant AA.
[4] Also supported by a Deputy DA, Assistant NA, Assistant MA and Assistant AA.

The defence diplomacy network is regularly reviewed as part of the normal planning process and to meet changing foreign and defence policy priorities. The FCO decided last year to withdraw its contribution to the cost of maintaining the Attaché/Adviser network and this has necessitated such a review, which is still in progress. Decisions on any changes to the network will not be made until the summer.

Armed Forces: Prosecutions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcome was of each case in which proceedings are no longer ongoing which was passed by the Army Prosecuting Authority back to the armed forces to consider what action needs to be taken since 2003. [136693]

Mr. Ingram: The number of referrals to the Army Prosecuting Authority which either were not directed for trial by court martial, or having been directed were discontinued before trial is as follows:

	Number of cases
2003	[1]102
2004	214
2005	301
2006	354
2007	[2]101

[1] The records for the Army Prosecuting Authority (Germany) are incomplete for 2003 and are recorded from September 2003 onwards.
[2] Up to 30 April 2007

Information on what action has been taken by a regiment/corps with these cases is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Psychiatry

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what facilities are available for psychiatric treatment of troops requiring such treatment on return to North Yorkshire after service in Iraq and Afghanistan. [137657]

Derek Twigg: Our mental health services are configured to provide community-based mental health care in line with national best practice, providing assessment and treatment in line with the guidelines and standards set by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the national service frameworks. We do this primarily through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) (plus satellite centres overseas), which provide out-patient mental health care. One of these centres is located at Catterick Garrison in North Yorkshire.

In-patient care, when necessary, is provided in psychiatric units belonging to the Priory Group, through a central contract with MOD. The Priory Group has arranged a subcontract with Affinity Healthcare at Middleton St George Hospital, Darlington for patients in the North East.

Any mobilised serviceman or woman injured on operational deployment is entitled to, and will receive the same level of medical treatment and support, irrespective of whether he or she is a member of the regular or reserve forces.

Once they are demobilised, it is a long established tradition that reserve forces' medical welfare becomes the responsibility of their own local NHS primary care trust, and the majority of veterans' physical and mental health needs are met by these provisions. However, the MOD recognises that it has expertise to offer in certain specific circumstances, and in November 2006 launched the Reserves Mental Health Programme.

The RMHP is open to any current or former member of the UK Volunteer and Regular Reserves who has been demobilised since 1 January 2003 following an overseas operational deployment as a reservist, and who believes that the deployment may have adversely affected their mental health. Under the RMHP, we liaise with the individual's GP and offer a mental health assessment at the Reserve Training and Mobilisation Centre in Chilwell, Nottinghamshire. If the individual is diagnosed to have an operational-related mental health condition, we then offer out-patient treatment at one of the DCMHs (e.g. Catterick Garrison). If more acute cases present, the Defence Medical Services will assist in obtaining access to NHS in-patient treatment.

Army: Greater London

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated value is of the house provided by his Department for the General Officer Commanding London District. [137442]

Derek Twigg: The house occupied by the General Officer Commanding of London District is leased from Cadogan Estates Group. The market value of the property is a matter for them.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which external consultants were used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies in relation to private finance initiatives in 2005-06; and what the (i) nature and (ii) cost of the work was in each case. [123013]

Mr. Ingram: The specific information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department uses external consultants to provide specialist commercial, financial and legal services for Integrated Project Teams to assist in the delivery of services (both PFI and non-PFI). In addition, ad hoc specialist technical consultants are engaged in particular areas where in-house expertise is not available.

During 2005-06 the MOD spent £47.2 million on external consultancy services to support teams seeking to engage industry in the delivery of public-private partnerships (PPP) including PFI and wider markets.

Summaries of MOD expenditure on external assistance, of which public-private partnerships including PFI and wider markets are a part, are available in the Libraries of both Houses for the years 1995-96 to 2005-06.

Ex-servicemen: Medical Treatments

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many war veterans *(a)* were entitled to receive and *(b)* received priority treatment in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [137549]

Derek Twigg: All war pensioners, including recipients of Armed Forces Compensation Scheme awards, are entitled to NHS priority treatment for conditions accepted to be due to service subject only to clinical priority. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1853W, regarding the numbers of war pensioners who receive priority treatment.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assurances he has received from his US counterpart that a STOVL variation of the joint strike fighter (F35B) will be included in the build programme. [138002]

Mr. Ingram: The US remains committed to production of the short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) variant and requests for funding for STOVL aircraft are included in the current Presidential Budget which is before Congress. The first development STOVL aircraft is being assembled and is on target to achieve first flight in 2008.

NATO: Medals

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which medals issued by NATO British service personnel are permitted *(a)* to receive and *(b)* to wear; and if he will make a statement. [136029]

Derek Twigg: Approval has been given for British Service personnel to accept and wear the NATO medals for service in:

Former Republic of Yugoslavia, between 1 July 1992 and 31 December 2002;

Kosovo, between 13 October 1998 and 31 December 2002;

Macedonia, between 1 June 2001 and 31 December 2002.

NATO replaced the above awards with a NATO (Non-Article 5) Balkans medal, with effect from 1 January 2003 to a future date to be decided. Approval has been given for British service personnel to accept and wear this medal if they are not already in possession of any of the previous NATO medals for service in this region.

Other NATO medals that are currently available that may be presented to British personnel have not been approved for wear.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average logged daily serviceability of the Nimrod fleet was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [132979]

Mr. Ingram: Data are not collected on the average logged daily serviceability of the Nimrod fleet.

The following table shows the annual planned flying hours against the annual achieved flying hours between the financial years 1997-98 and 2006-07. The Nimrod fleet includes the Nimrod MR2 and the Nimrod R1 aircraft and the following table is the combined totals for both fleets.

align="left" valign="bottom" Financial year	Total annual planned flying hours	Total annual achieved flying hours
2006-07	8,732	8,012
2005-06	7,932	9,445
2004-05	10,514	12,118
2003-04	12,112	12,115
2002-03	11,830	11,707
2001-02	12,495	12,578
2000-01	12,265	11,941
1999-2000	12,935	12,859
1998-99	13,313	12,728
1997-98	13,677	13,243

The actual flown statistics for FY2006-07 are lower than the planned because of the loss of Nimrod XV230 on 2 September 2006.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to refit the Nimrod MR2 R1 aircraft's wing fuel tanks with foam to prevent explosions. [134921]

Mr. Ingram: We keep under review the requirement for defensive aids, including explosion suppressant foam, in all our aircraft deployed on operations including the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft.

Peacekeeping Operations: Iraq

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the incidence of *(a)* neurological and *(b)* other illnesses among members of the Black Watch following deployment on Operation Telic. [134536]

Derek Twigg: Black Watch personnel were included in the comprehensive programme of health surveillance which the MOD commissioned from the King's Centre for Military Health Research (KCMHR), which has considerable expertise in this field. I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1478-83W, for the results of this study, published in May 2006, and available to view at www.kcl.ac.uk/kcmhr, which showed that there had been no substantial increase in symptomatic ill health among regular personnel from participation in the operation.

RAF Leeming

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the long-term future of RAF Leeming. [137226]

Mr. Ingram: The long-term future of the station is secure. The A6 Communications Hub has begun to build up and some elements have already moved into RAF Leeming. As I advised the hon. Member on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1355W, the number and operation of military airfields is under review to ensure that the best use is made of the Defence Estate for our armed forces.

RAF Northolt

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the limits are on civil aircraft movements at RAF Northolt per calendar year; and whether there are any plans for the numbers to be changed. [137918]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 1250W, and on 2 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 824W, in which I reiterated that any changes to the number of civil commercial aircraft movements would be subject to full consultation with the local authority and interested parties. This position has not changed.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian aircraft (i) arrived at and (ii) departed from RAF Northolt in each year since 2004 for which figures are available. [137919]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 May 2007]*: This information is not held in the format requested; however, the following table details the number of aircraft movements, which could be an arrival or departure, for each of the last three years:

	Civilian	Military
2004	7493	4792
2005	7400	5080
2006	7552	4836

Civil commercial aircraft movements at RAF Northolt are limited to 7,000 per calendar year; the number of civilian movements quoted in the table includes non-commercial civilian aircraft movements, for example those transporting visiting Royalty and heads of State.

Saudi Arabia

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when *(a)* he has met and *(b)* officials from his Department have met (i) Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and (ii) his representatives since 1 January 2006; and if he will make a statement. [136898]

Des Browne *[holding answer 16 May 2007]*: It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Bridges Community Ventures

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what dates officials in his Department have met the fund manager of Bridges Community Ventures (BCV) since May 2002; and which representatives of BCV attended each meeting. [110824]

Margaret Hodge: Since May 2002, DTI officials have attended two Partnership meetings per annum at which the Bridges community development venture fund

executive team were present together with the limited partners in the fund. These meetings were open to other investors and BCV board members. DTI does not keep a record of third-party attendees.

Additional meetings have been held as set out in the following list. Meetings were usually attended by Philip Newborough and Michele Giddens or, on occasion, by one or the other.

Partnership meetings

10 December 2002
10 June 2003
10 December 2003
7 July 2004
10 December 2004
10 June 2005
8 December 2005
8 June 2006
7 December 2006

Ad hoc meetings

24 April 2002
30 July 2002
4 November 2003
1 September 2004
5 October 2004
18 October 2006
21 November 2006

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which representative of Bridges Community Ventures made the presentation to the Capital for Enterprise Board on 21 November 2006. [136323]

Margaret Hodge: Philip Newborough and Michelle Giddens, representing Bridges Community Ventures, jointly made the presentation to the Capital for Enterprise Board on 2 November 2006.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [137704]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the DTI there are currently 73 staff who are surplus seeking to continue their career in the civil service. All are provided with dedicated management support to assist with securing redeployment opportunities. They all have access to a voluntary early retirement and severance scheme.

Electrical Engineering: Waste Management

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the definition of waste is in the context of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; what guidance he has issued on whether electrical goods designated for repair and resale come within this definition; and if he will make a statement. [136560]

Malcolm Wicks: The definition of waste applied to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE) is given in article 1 (1) (a) of Directive2006/12/EU, that is

> "waste shall mean any substance or object in the categories set out in Annex I which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard."

Non-statutory guidance on the UK WEEE regulations, published in February 2007, encourages the prioritisation of the reuse of whole electrical and electronic appliances under the regulations and the forms of evidence acceptable to the environment agencies to allow producers to count the reuse of whole appliances against their notified obligations.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether it is Government policy to promote the repair and resale of damaged electrical goods as an alternative to their disposal as waste; and if he will make a statement. [136561]

Malcolm Wicks: Electrical products suitable for refurbishment and reuse should be prioritised under the UK WEEE regulations. All equipment identified for legitimate reuse will be counted towards producers financial obligations provided appropriate evidence is presented to the environment agencies.

I will be establishing an independent advisory body on the operation of the UK WEEE regulations later in the year. One of the tasks of the body will be to identify and disseminate good practice across all aspects of the regulations and the supporting infrastructure. One area for consideration will be the prioritisation of environmental legitimate reuse.

Electricity: Meters

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of *(a)* the average life of an electricity meter, *(b)* the number of electricity meters in the UK, *(c)* the number of electricity meters changed each year and *(d)* the time it would take to replace all existing electricity meters with new electricity monitors; and if he will make a statement. [136754]

Malcolm Wicks: There are 28.5 million electricity meters in Great Britain. The average life of an electricity meter is 20 years, and around 5 per cent. are changed each year. Electricity meters could not be replaced by any device that did not meet the legal requirement that, where electricity is used, it must be measured by an appropriate meter. The Government will set out their views on electricity and gas metering in the forthcoming Energy White Paper.

Energy: Research

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what progress has been made on setting up a new Energy and Environmental Research Institute further to the Chancellor's announcement in the Budget 2006; [137071]

(2) what progress has been made in setting up the Environmental Technologies Institute; and when he expects the Institute to be opened. [137074]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry published the prospectus for the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) on 14 September 2006. It envisaged that the Institute would be legally established and fully operational in 2008, with 50:50 public/private sector funding. The intention is that Institute will be legally incorporated over the next few months. A shortlist of organisations which have been invited to prepare detailed submissions to host the ETI director and support staff was announced on 14 May. The first technical programmes and the host organisation should be identified over the summer.

Energy White Paper

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date he expects to publish the Energy White Paper. [137870]

Mr. Darling: I refer the hon. Member to the business statement made yesterday by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Straw) on 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 737.

Fuel Poverty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to lift households out of fuel poverty. [136676]

Malcolm Wicks: Responsibility for tackling fuel poverty in England is shared between the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Department of Trade and Industry's main contribution to tackling fuel poverty is through ensuring a competitive energy market, which will bear down on the cost of energy to the benefit of all consumers but particularly those in fuel poverty.

The Department of Trade and Industry itself has a number of specific policies to tackle the issue of fuel poverty. The Department's Design and Demonstration Unit has designed and delivered projects to provide gas connections to deprived communities, and it is now developing community projects utilising renewable technologies. Last winter work was taken forward with energy suppliers, Ofgem and other key players to mail out to 100,000 elderly households in receipt of pension credit offering a range of assistance.

The Department has also liaised closely with energy suppliers on the creation of the Home Heat Helpline, which provides a central point of information about help available from energy suppliers and Government. It has also encouraged energy suppliers to introduce social tariffs, price freezes and other measures for fuel poor and low income customers.

The forthcoming Energy White Paper will set out some of the steps that are needed to tackle fuel poverty across all its causes.

Imports: India

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of imports into the UK were from India in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [136792]

Mr. McCartney: Table 9.3 of the ONS UK Balance of Payments Pink Book implies that in 2005 1.1 per cent. of imports of goods and services into the United Kingdom came from India. UK exports of goods and services to India were 1.2 per cent. of total UK exports. Similar figures for trade in goods and services on a balance of payments basis are not yet available for 2006.

HM Revenue and Customs' Overseas Trade Statistics imply that in 2005 1 per cent. of imports of goods into the United Kingdom came from India and 1.3 per cent. UK exports of goods went to India, while in 2006 1.1 per cent. of imports of goods came from India and 1.1 per cent. of exports of goods went to India.

The sectors with the highest share of UK imports of goods from India in 2006 were:

Articles of apparel and clothing accessories—20.2 per cent.

Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles etc—8.3 per cent.

Miscellaneous manufactured articles—7.2 per cent.

Petroleum and products and related articles—6.7 per cent.

Manufactures of metal not elsewhere specified—5.8 per cent.

The sectors with the highest share of UK exports of goods to India in 2006 were:

Non-metallic mineral manufacturers (almost entirely diamonds)— 41.5 per cent.

Power generating machinery and equipment—6.7 per cent.

General industrial machinery and equipment—4.9 per cent.

Other transport equipment—4.7 per cent.

Metalliferous ores and metal scrap—4.5 per cent.

The ONS estimate of the level of UK foreign direct investment (FDI) in India at the end of 2005 was 0.3 per cent. of the total UK level of outward FDI. The estimate of the level of Indian FDI in the UK was 0.1 per cent. of the total level of inward FDI in the UK.

In 2005-06 UK Trade and Investment saw a 111 per cent. rise in the number of inward investment projects from India, which reached 76 (including mergers and acquisitions) worth £1.02 billion. As a result of this increase, India rose from eighth to third in UKTI's FDI league table by project numbers, behind the USA and Japan.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that an appropriate level of industrial land is available for business start-ups and other small and medium-sized enterprises in the manufacturing sector; [131808]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure sufficient supply of land and accommodation for start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises in the manufacturing sector. [131812]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State meets with a range of organisations, but has had no specific discussions with employers' organisations or with the Local Government Association about sites and facilities needed for start-up businesses and other small and medium-sized enterprises in the manufacturing sector.

National planning policy set out in Planning Policy Guidance 4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms, asks local planning authorities to ensure that there is a sufficient quantity and variety of land available to meet the differing needs of businesses. Local planning authorities should also ensure that there is sufficient land available which is readily capable of development and well served by infrastructure.

Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities, in preparing and reviewing their development plans, should make a realistic assessment of the quantity of land likely to be needed in their areas to meet the needs of business and developers. That assessment should ensure that suitable locations are available for start-up businesses likely to come forward in the manufacturing sector as well as for small and medium-sized enterprises.

To assist planning authorities in assessing the overall demand for and supply of employment land, we have published 'Employment Land Reviews: Guidance Note (December 2004).' This guidance seeks to help planning authorities assess the suitability of sites to accommodate employment development, to help protect the best sites in the face of competition from higher value uses and to help them identify those sites which are no longer needed for employment development and which can be released for other uses, including housing.

Nanotechnology

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the *(a)* present and *(b)* future importance to the (i) UK and (ii) North East economy of nanotechnology; and what steps his Department is taking to support this industry. [137104]

Malcolm Wicks: Worldwide it has been estimated that the market for nanotechnology alone could be worth £1 trillion by 2013. The benefits to the UK economy from exploiting the opportunities this represents should not be and are not being underestimated.

To that end the DTI is spending £90 million over six years (it was announced in 2003) on research and infrastructure that promotes the commercialisation of Micro and Nanotechnologies (MNT), with a focus on collaborative research and technology transfer. Much of this is 'pump priming' funding and includes:

- funding of £40 million for applied research projects that are relevant to industry;
- funding of over £50 million to establish and maintain for five years a network of 23 Nanotechnology Centres developing nanotechnology solutions for industry in the areas of nanometrology, nanomaterials, nanomedicine and nanofabrication;
- funding for the Nanotechnology Knowledge Transfer Network—this a vehicle for the community to develop its ideas and interactions and a communications route between that community and the Government; and
- support for the Nanotechnology Industries Association—an independent organisation that promotes the responsible use of nanotechnology and raises awareness of its many applications among key audiences.

This funding has been spread across the UK, and the North East is the location of no fewer than four Nanotechnology Centres[1] and is well represented in the consortia undertaking the nanotechnology applied research projects.

After the third MNT competition for the Applied Research Programme, in spring 2005, the Technology Strategy Board decided that future support for MNT would be integrated with other technology areas such as materials within the Technology Programme. It is through this mechanism that future funding for nanotechnology will funded; for example, the spring 2007 Technology Programme Competition has two priority areas which involve the application of nanotechnology:

- Smart, Bioactive and Nanostructures Materials for Health—£7 million
- Plastic Electronics—£5 million.

The Technology Strategy Board will be responsible for the research agenda and expenditure on nanotechnology.

The Research Councils are funding ongoing fundamental research. For example, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has spent over £132 million since 2003 on nanotechnology, and is currently investing about £40 million per annum in research grants and supporting 40 new PhD studentships per annum in the area.

Regionally, North East England has a strong micro- and nanotechnology capability in the areas of bio-nano materials and devices, as well as semi-conductor research and production and the integration of these technologies in areas such as sensors and photonics.

ONE NorthEast, in collaboration with the DTI, is making a major investment in MNT, and the North East is home to the University Innovation Centre for Nanotechnology. This is a 'virtual' centre fronted by the five Regional Universities, with a public investment of £7 million from DTI and One NorthEast, and leveraging an extra £14 million. It facilitates knowledge transfer, the strengthening of capacity and capability, and open access to state-of-the-art facilities.

North East England has two centres of excellence concerned with facilitating the application of nanotechnology, the Centre for Excellence in Nanotechnology, Microtechnology and Photonics Systems (Cenamps) and the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI). Both have major initiatives concerned with nanotechnology, which include the Fuel Cells Application Facility, a major bio-nano and medicine programme and the National Industrial Biotechnology Facility (£7 million). The Centres are funded and supported by ONE NorthEast, in partnership with Central Government, Universities and businesses. These initiatives span and bring together different disciplines, industries and sectors as befits the broad outlook of nanotechnology. Nanotechnology is also becoming increasingly important to the region's process industries. In this sector, the CPI provides industrial research and development expertise, for example in advanced manufacturing and new product development in material properties.

Additionally, these Centres of Excellence play a key strategic role in the economy of North East England, facilitating 'cultural' change within the Regional Universities, encouraging them to become more entrepreneurial, and strengthening and building on the region's capabilities in emerging small-scale technologies.

An example of a successful new nanotechnology enterprise is Durham Scientific Crystals (DSC). DSC is a spin-out company from Durham University's Physics Department. The Company, formed in April 2003, is actively involved in developing proprietary semiconductor materials. In partnership with the University, it has worldwide exclusive rights to commercially exploit a patented technology. The research was supported by One NorthEast and the Research Councils prior to the spin-out from the University, and Cenamps has supported DSC since formation. DSC has subsequently received £1 million funding from US-based venture capitalist Amphion Innovations, which will help take the business to its next stage of development.

[1] The four Nanotechnology Centres are Fluence in Redcar, National Particulates in Wilton, INEX in Newcastle, and Plastic Electronics Technology Centre (PeTEC) in Sedgefield. Furthermore, Fluence, INEX and PeTEC are all co-funded by ONE.

Natural Gas: Storage

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his policy is on 'ramming the pipes' as a means of gas storage. [136741]

Malcolm Wicks: Linepack—the industry term for increasing the volume of gas stored within a pipeline system by operating at pressures closer to the maximum design operating pressure—is one of the tools used by gas transmission companies for managing short-term variations in the gas supply-demand balance. This is a commercial matter, subject to economic regulation by Ofgem and safety regulation by the Health and Safety Executive.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many applications for gas storage facilities were *(a)* made and *(b)* successful in each of the last 15 years. [136742]

Malcolm Wicks: One application has been made by a licensed gas transporter seeking a storage authorisation order to store gas underground in natural porous strata under the Gas Act 1965. The application by Caythorpe Gas Storage Ltd for a storage authorisation order for its Caythorpe Gas Field project in the East Riding of Yorkshire is being considered at a public inquiry together with a related compulsory purchase order and related planning appeals.

All other applications for gas storage facilities have been dealt with by local planning authorities in the normal planning regime under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

North Sea Oil

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much public money the Government spent on the UK's North sea oil and gas fields in each year since 1997. [136811]

Malcolm Wicks: Expenditure on programmes relating to UK North sea oil and gas fields (Oil and Gas Maximising Recovery Programme and predecessor programmes, and the Offshore Geology Programme) is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*£ million*
1997-98	4.0
1998-99	3.6
1999-2000	2.7
2000-01	3.4
2001-02	3.2
2002-03	3.2
2003-04	3.4
2004-05	3.5
2005-06	3.1
2006-07	2.3

It is difficult to identify the exact portion of DTI running costs relating to oil and gas fields for each year of the period but in 2006-07 a further £3.5 million was dedicated to maximising production from the UK's oil and gas fields.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1817, on nuclear power, if he will ensure that the evidence provided on nuclear security issues to the Energy Review 2006 is incorporated in the consultation paper on nuclear energy. [137341]

Malcolm Wicks: Our nuclear consultation will endeavour to bring together all the evidence and analysis, including nuclear security issues, which we have collected since the Energy Review began. It will help people to reach informed views and provide us with valuable contributions, which will help inform the Government's decision in the autumn.

Nuclear Power: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the UK has an adequate supply of people with the skills needed to apply nuclear and radiological technology. [136829]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have assisted in the establishment of a sector skills council to represent the needs of the nuclear industry. Cogent Sector Skills Council, working with employers, is taking a strategic view of the nuclear sector to ensure that the education and training base can meet the nuclear employers' current and future needs. The nuclear industry, working with Cogent, has successfully competed for a national skills academy through the Department for Education and Skills academy programme. The Nuclear National Skills Academy is at the business planning stage which is expected to be finalised shortly. The academy, which is employer-led, is designed to deliver high-quality training provision and drive up standards in the nuclear industry.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council has a portfolio of new activities in support of nuclear skills and research which include £6.1 million

for a research consortium to address the challenge of "keeping open the nuclear option" and £1 million for a "Nuclear Technology Education Consortium" to provide masters-level and continuing professional development training for the nuclear industries. Both lever additional funding from industry.

Overseas Trade: India

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has for a trade mission to India in the near future; and what steps he plans to take to improve trade relations with India. [136808]

Mr. McCartney: There is a sustained high level of ministerial commitment to improving the UK's trade relations with India. The annual Prime Ministers' summit agenda has a significant trade and investment content. Completion of the Doha development round, further liberalisation of Indian markets and support for UK companies bidding for business in India are recurrent features of all ministerial interaction with Indian counterparts. The next bilateral business event focusing on investment is due to take place in India in the autumn of 2007 as part of the Prime Minister's visit. To coincide with the Chancellor's visit to India, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry was accompanied by a 150-strong business delegation to the Joint Economic Trade Committee (JETC) meeting in New Delhi in January 2007. Business-led working groups are addressing the barriers and opportunities in India in sectors of importance including financial and professional services, infrastructure and health care.

The Chancellor announced the increase in UK Trade and Investment's support to the Indo British Partnership Network (IBPN) by providing funding of £1 million a year. In addition, UKTI is increasing its level of resource to India, both by adding new staff to commercial sections and by recruiting a number of business advisers in the UK to assist firms looking to trade with high growth markets such as India. India features as a priority for all the sectoral support activities undertaken by UKTI. The English regions and all the devolved administrations are also actively promoting business opportunities.

Post Offices: Standards

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he plans to take to ensure continuity and consistency in monitoring the provision of Post Office services during the introduction of new national access criteria on behalf of consumers whilst Postwatch is merged into the National Consumer Council. [137745]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We recognise the importance of ensuring that the role Postwatch will play in relation to post office network change is not adversely affected by the establishment of the new National Consumer Council. Work is being carried out to determine what arrangements should be put in place to ensure that that does not happen. Postwatch is involved in these discussions.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the regional *(a)* council members and *(b)* committees of Postwatch are expected to play a role in monitoring the implementation of new national access criteria to post offices for the duration of the programme. [137746]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Post Office Ltd and Postwatch have reached agreement on the role of the Consumer Council during local consultations on area plans, and it is expected that regional council members and committees will be involved in the development of area plans and subsequent local consultations.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what permission is required for British Nuclear Group Sellafield Ltd and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to send radioactively contaminated metals from decommissioning facilities at Sellafield to the Studsvik decontamination plant in Sweden. [136343]

Malcolm Wicks: The import and export of radioactive waste is subject to a system of control and prior authorisation under Council Directive 92/3/ Euratom and the Transfrontier Shipment of Radioactive Waste Regulations 1993. The Environment Agency is the competent authority that issues such authorisations to export radioactive waste from, and import it into, England and Wales.

The proposed shipments of contaminated metal from Sellafield, for recycling in Sweden, are in line with the Government's policy for the long-term management of low-level radioactive waste, announced on 26 March this year. The radioactive products of overseas treatment of radioactive waste are generally returned to the UK, with the metal being recycled in the country where the smelting process is carried out.

Redundancy: Pregnant Women

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the number of women who were made redundant after becoming pregnant in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [138201]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Labour Force Survey estimates that 191,000 women were made redundant in the UK in 2006; this is around 1.6 per cent. of all female employees. For the previous four years, the total numbers of female employees made redundant are as follows:

	Number
2002	258,000
2003	215,000
2004	212,000
2005	203,000

However, the Labour Force Survey does not identify which of these women were made redundant after becoming pregnant, nor are reliable estimates available from other sources.

Renewable Energy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost implications are of the EU's 2020 biofuel and renewable energy targets. [137516]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Commission estimates that meeting the target of 20 per cent. of energy consumption to come from renewable sources (including 10 per cent. biofuels) will cost between £24 billion and £31 billion across the EU in 2020. This is a central estimate of the additional costs to production for the whole of the EU—the number is based on modelling and will be sensitive to assumptions on technology costs, innovation rates, energy prices and carbon prices in the period to 2020.

The UK is considering the European Commission's analysis and its implications for the UK.

Turbines: Health Hazards

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the effects on humans of low frequency noise from wind turbines. [136846]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2004 the Department commissioned Hayes McKenzie to report on claims that infrasound or low frequency noise emitted by wind turbine generators were causing health effects.

Hayes McKenzie reported to the Department in May 2006 and the report concluded that there is no evidence of health effects arising from infrasound or low frequency noise generated by wind farms.

A copy of the report can be found at

www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/publications/page31267.html

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account his Department plans to take of the World Health Organisation Guidelines for Community Noise 1999 report in its guidance on wind turbine noise levels. [136847]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department uses the ETSU-R-97 guidance for wind turbine noise levels. There are no plans to review these limits.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will assess the merits of instituting a statutory minimum distance of separation between wind turbines in excess of 1MW installed capacity and *(a)* residential and *(b)* business dwellings. [136848]

Malcolm Wicks: Current planning guidance expects proposals to be evaluated on the likely impacts taking into account the characteristics of particular locations. The likely impact of noise from wind turbines on local residents and those working in the vicinity is always considered in relation to the existing background noise levels. Acceptable separation distances for a turbine located within an industrial area differ from those for one located in a rural area.

The topography of the location, wind speeds and presence of natural barriers will also influence the levels of audibility in relation to nearby dwellings. For this reason, we do not intend to introduce inflexible separation distances. We continue to support the approach set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22—Renewable Energy: that it is for local planning authorities to

> "ensure that renewable energy developments have been located and designed in such a way to minimise increases in ambient noise levels",

using the 1997 report by ETSU to assess and rate noise from wind energy developments.

Overall, the minimum desirable distance between wind turbines and occupied buildings calculated on the basis of expected noise levels and visual impact will usually be greater than that necessary to meet safety requirements arising from structural failure. The Companion Guide to PPS22 states that fall over distance (i.e. the height of the turbine to the tip of the blade) plus 10 per cent. is often used as a safe separation distance.

UK Coal Operating Aid Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was paid out by the UK Coal Operating Aid Scheme in each year since 2000. [136791]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK Coal Operating Aid Scheme was launched by the DTI in November 2000. Its aim was to allow those elements of the UK coal industry with a viable future without aid to overcome short-term market problems (in particular, low world coal prices and the lifting of the stricter gas consents policy) and to prevent a sudden and sharp decline in the size of the coal industry.

A total of £162,170,995.00 was awarded between 2000 and 2002 in four tranches broken down as follows:

Tranche 1—£87,339,268 awarded in 2000

Tranche 2—£62,357,501 awarded in 2001

Tranche 3—£9,739,026 and

Tranche 4—£2,735,200 were awarded in 2002

Wind Power: Reaps Moss

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the application by Coronation Power to erect a windfarm on Reaps Moss will be subject to ministerial approval. [137994]

Malcolm Wicks: Coronation Power's proposed Reaps Moss wind farm would have installed capacity of up to 12 MW in total. Therefore the planning application will not be determined by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 as the installed capacity does not exceed 50 MW. The planning application is currently being considered by Rossendale borough council and Calderdale metropolitan borough council.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Chief Medical Officer have issued since 1997 to primary care trusts on procedures for appointment of consultants to hospital posts with duties including (i) termination of pregnancy and (ii) advice on termination of pregnancy; if she will place in the Library copies of such guidance; and if she will make a statement; [135709]

(2) whether medical students are required to undertake duties involving termination of pregnancy as part of their training; whether section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967 applies in such circumstances; and if she will make a statement; [135713]

(3) what research has been *(a)* funded and *(b)* carried out by her Department into discrimination against (i) medical students and (ii) trainee doctors who have a conscientious objection to abortion in the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [135714]

(4) what monitoring of the guidance issued by the Chief Medical Officer in 1989 on appointment of consultants: termination of pregnancy, that no reference to termination of pregnancy duties is to be made in a job advertisement for a new consultant, her Department has *(a)* undertaken since 2006 and *(b)* plans to undertake in the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [135722]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department last issued guidance in 1994 in Health Service Guidelines HSG(94)39 'Appointment of doctors to hospital posts: termination of pregnancy'. These guidelines updated the guidance issued by the Chief Medical Officer in 1989. Copies are available in the Library.

The Department checks job advertisements for hospital posts that might involve abortion on a regular basis. In addition, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists checks the job advertisements and reviews every job description. The guideline states if certain conditions have been satisfied, reference to termination of pregnancy should be included in the job description for career posts.

Section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967 allows doctors to opt out of participating in any treatment for abortion to which they have a conscientious objection. As such, medical students are not required to undertake termination of pregnancy as part of their training but they are taught theory and implications of the Abortion Act.

The House of Lords ruled in 1988 that this exemption does not extend to giving advice, performing the preparatory steps to arrange an abortion where the request meets legal requirements and undertaking administration connected with abortion procedures.

No research has been funded or carried out by the Department in the last five years on discrimination against medical students or trainee doctors who have a conscientious objection to abortion. We have no plans to do so as we have no evidence to suggest that this is an issue.

Care Workers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1016W, on care workers, which councils had not completed the task force recommendations *(a)* mostly and *(b)* in full. [131902]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's task force on violence and abuse against social workers reported in 2000, and made a number of recommendations for employers, including that they should undertake a service and training needs analyses in this respect, and put in place and implement actions plans where required. The latest data collected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection from local councils for April 2005 indicate that more than 80 per cent. of councils had completed the taskforce recommendations mostly or in full. The data have not been collected for more recent years and therefore should be treated with caution as a statement of the current situation.

At that time, around half all councils had completed the tasks set by the task force.

The following two councils were classified as having not yet:

Bracknell Forest; and
Lambeth.

The following 18 councils had completed some tasks:

Brent;
Coventry;
Dudley;
Gloucestershire;
Halton;
Hertfordshire;
Lewisham;
Newham;
North East Lincolnshire;
Oldham;
Poole;
Reading;
Sefton;
Slough;
Southend-on-sea;
Sunderland;
Thurrock; and
Trafford.

The following 54 had completed most tasks:

Bedfordshire;
Bexley;
Bolton;
Bournemouth;
Brighton;
Buckinghamshire;
Bury;
Calderdale;

Cambridgeshire;
Camden;
City of London;
Coventry;
Cumbria;
Derby;
Durham;
Ealing;
East Riding of Yorkshire;
Essex;
Gateshead;
Hackney;
Hammersmith and Fulham;
Hampshire;
Harrow;
Hartlepool;
Havering;
Islington;
Kingston-upon-Thames;
Leicester;
Leicestershire;
Liverpool;
Manchester;
Merton;
Milton Keynes;
North Lincolnshire;
North Somerset;
Northumberland;
Plymouth;
Portsmouth;
Rochdale;
Rutland;
Sandwell;
Solihull;
Southwark;
Stockport;
Suffolk;
Surrey;
Sutton;
Swindon;
Torbay;
Tower Hamlets;
Waltham Forest;
Warrington;
Wokingham; and
Wolverhampton.

Childbirth

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of mothers spent *(a)* less than one day, *(b)* one day, *(c)* two days, *(d)* three days, *(e)* four days, *(f)* five days, *(g)* six days, *(h)* seven days and *(i)* eight days or more in hospital after giving birth in each year since 1995 for which records are available. [136527]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is set out in the following table.

NHS hospital deliveries: duration of postnatal stay, 1995-96 to 2005-06, England

Percentage

	Total number of deliveries[1] (=100%)	*Same day*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8 or more*
1995-96	592,600	11	29	22	14	11	7	3	1	2
1996-97	594,500	12	30	22	14	11	7	2	1	2
1997-98	585,000	13	31	21	13	11	6	2	1	2
1998-99	577,500	13	32	20	13	10	5	2	1	2
1999-2000	565,300	13	33	20	14	10	5	2	1	2
2000-01	549,600	13	33	20	14	10	5	2	1	2
2001-02	541,700	13	33	20	15	9	4	2	1	2
2002-03	548,000	14	34	20	15	8	4	2	1	2
2003-04	575,900	15	35	20	15	8	3	2	1	2
2004-05	584,100	16	35	21	15	7	3	2	1	2

[1] Number of deliveries were taken from ONS birth registration data.

Notes:

1. Figures used to calculate percentages have been adjusted for shortfalls in data. It is probable that there are duplicates included in these counts, which we have not removed.
There may also be a variety of errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.
2. Episode type: 2 = Delivery episode; 5 = Other delivery event
3. Data Quality: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)
The Information Centre for health and social care

Clostridium: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the London borough of Bexley were diagnosed with *Clostridium difficile* in each of the last three years. [135460]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested.

However, the following table shows figures for Queen Mary's Sidcup National Health Service Trust in the years 2004-06.

Number of reported Clostridium difficile cases for Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust

	Cases
January to December 2004	160
January to December 2005	251
January to December 2006	188

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Dental Services

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were per 100,000 population in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [136133]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data are available on the number of National Health Service dentists in rural and urban primary care trusts (PCTs), according to the classifications by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The data are constructed from PCT-level results. As an NHS dentist may have a contract in more than one PCT, the rural and urban totals will include duplication. Duplicates have been removed from the England results.

The following table shows the number of NHS dentists per 100,000 population, by the PCT types, as at 31 March 2001 to 2006. To provide data prior to 2001 would be at disproportionate cost.

Information at 31 March 2006 is the latest available as rural and urban PCT classifications are not yet available by the new PCT boundaries (as at 1 October 2006).

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Numbers of NHS dentists per 100,000 population, in England, as at 31 March each year

PCT type[1]	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	37	38	38	38	40	42
Major urban	48	49	48	48	50	54
Large urban	43	44	44	45	47	50
Other urban	44	46	46	48	50	54
Significant rural	42	43	43	43	45	49
Rural-50	39	40	40	41	43	46
Rural-80	39	38	40	41	42	45

Notes:
[1]DEFRA classification of PCTs developed by the Rural Evidence Research Centre at Birkbeck College, September 2005. Information has been assigned at PCT level. The Birkbeck College classification are as follows:
Major Urban: districts with either 100,000 people or 50 per cent., of their population in urban areas with a population of more than 750,000.
Large Urban: districts with either 50,000 people or 50 per cent., of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000.
Other Urban: districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 per cent., of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
Significant Rural: districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 per cent., of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
Rural-50: districts with at least 50 per cent., but less than 80 per cent., of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
Rural-80: districts with at least 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) Office for National Statistics (ONS) Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Information has been taken from PCT results to obtain the split for each classification group. Some dentists may have an open general or personal dental services contract in more than one PCT and will therefore have been counted more than once. The England totals exclude duplication.

The postcode of the dental practice was used to allocate dentists to PCTs. Under the former GDS arrangements (up to 31 March 2006), a dentist could provide as much or as little NHS treatment as he or she chose. In some cases an NHS dentist may be listed to carry out NHS work but may not do so for a given period.

Information is based on Office for National Statistics mid-year 2004 population figures.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what opinion polls have been undertaken by her Department since May 2005; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [118162]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect this information centrally. However, information on opinion research commissioned by the Department's Communications Directorate since May 2005 is available as follows. This should be regarded as an indicative guide on spend only.

Since May 2005, the Communications Directorate has spent £308,115 on the following opinion polling:

£133,315: four waves of an national health service staff survey—to listen to NHS staff to understand their challenges and experiences to improve staff engagement and inform policy development and business planning;

£154,000: four waves of a public survey—to listen to the public and gain insight on public sentiment and patient experience to create better quality and more responsive public services;

£18,590: public monitor—to understand the public's concerns for the NHS to create better quality and more responsive public services; and

£2,200: national health journalist survey—to gather operational information to improve the service we provide to journalists.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in her Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136097]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All members of staff are instructed to shut down their computers at the end of their working day. The shutdown process automatically switches off the power to the computer and puts the monitor into a low power sleep mode. Staff have been encouraged also to switch off their monitors at the end of their working day as part of an internal sustainable development awareness programme.

There are no technical facilities or procedures in place to enforce a complete shutdown of computers and monitors at night. However, if staff neglect to shut down their computers at the end of the day, the equipment automatically enters a low power sleep mode within 30 minutes of inactivity.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134043]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The percentage of paper used by the Department from recycled sources for the last three years has been:

for photocopying, 80 per cent. of the paper used is from recycled sources; for printed publications, all of our parliamentary work, carried out by Central Office of Information (COI), is published in accordance with the guidance as set out by the Office of Public Sector Information, September 2006 which states that the minimum recycled fibre content required is 60 per cent. for coated and 100 per cent. for uncoated papers; and— for all other printed publications, the selection of paper stock is based on the most cost-effective quotation that represents value for money use of public funds. As such, the actual brand of recycled and environmentally friendly paper and its specifications rests with the COI and the Department is unable to make a detailed statement on the information requested.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in her Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135373]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been no complaints of sexual harassment investigated by the Department in the last 12 months.

Diamorphine

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the availability of diamorphine relative to demand in the NHS; and which suppliers provide diamorphine to the NHS. [137751]

Caroline Flint: There are two suppliers of diamorphine to the United Kingdom market, Novartis and Wockhardt. Both are working to their full available capacity, but are currently unable to produce enough to meet historic demand, although that demand may have changed owing to changes in prescribing practice. The supply position improved during 2006 and the trend is expected to be maintained during 2007. However, the improvements vary by product strength, reflecting manufacturing capacity issues. Some strengths remain in relatively poor supply, while the position for others is satisfactory. We believe that through careful prescribing and use of available stocks, as advised in the guidance the Department issued to prescribers and healthcare professionals in December 2004, patient care is not being compromised.

Doctors: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what percentage of the period since 22 January when doctors used the system to apply for training posts the Medical Training Application Service system experienced technical difficulties; and if she will list the technical difficulties. [135862]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Medical Training Application Service system has been fully available for doctors to apply for training posts since it went live in October 2006. Until 25 April, the system was available for use for 99.7 per cent. of the time. On two occasions since 22 January the system was heavily loaded and ran slowly, causing some users to have intermittent difficulties accessing the service until load balancing adjustments had been made. The application period was extended to allow for this.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pieces of correspondence *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department received raising concern about the Modernising Medical Careers programme in (i) January, (ii) February, (iii) March and (iv) April 2007. [135946]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following table shows the number of pieces of correspondence the Department has received concerning the Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) programme.

MMC correspondence received in 2007

January	70
February	86
March	758
April	344
Total	1,258

Unfortunately, owing to the way that correspondence is recorded, we cannot state the amount of these that were addressed to the Secretary of State for Health without disproportionate cost.

Ephedrine

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations her Department has carried out with individual GP practices on the likely impact of

making prescribable over-the-counter medicines containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine on their work load and the services they provide to patients. [134667]

Caroline Flint: On 7 March 2007, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) started a public consultation exercise on proposals to restrict the availability of medicines containing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine by a change to legal status from pharmacy to prescription only, together with a restriction in pack size. This followed advice from the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM).

The MHRA welcomes views on the merits and impact of the consultation proposals from all stakeholders including individual general practitioners, and the responses received will be given full consideration by the CHM, the MHRA and health Ministers before a decision is made.

In the light of external interest and questions, the MHRA is making available more information in relation to the consultation exercise. In order to give interested parties time to consider this additional information the deadline for comments will be extended by a month until the end of June.

Folic Acid

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors she will take into account in making a decision on recommendations made by the Board of the Food Standards Agency on folic acid fortification; and if she will make a statement. [138158]

Caroline Flint: This is an important issue which will need very careful consideration. The decision will need to take account of the potential benefits and risks to different population groups, the impact on consumer choice and the practical implications for the industry. The independent Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, which advises both health departments and the Food Standards Agency (FSA), has already published advice and the FSA is expected to provide advice following its board meeting on 17 May.

Health Authorities: Reorganisation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has made an estimate of the total additional expenditure necessitated by the *(a)* reorganisation of strategic health authorities on 1 July 2006 and *(b)* reorganisation of primary care trusts on 1 October 2006. [135882]

Andy Burnham: The Department estimates that there will be no additional overall expenditure resulting from the implementation of the "Commissioning a Patient-Led NHS" initiative.

The reconfiguration of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities provides an opportunity to deliver savings, both by reducing the number of organisations and through the greater sharing of functions. By 2008, this reconfiguration is expected to deliver at least £250 million savings each year for reinvestment in front-line services.

Health Services: Asylum

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what response she has made to the conclusion of the Tenth Report from the Joint Committee on Human Rights, HC 60-1, that the denial of secondary healthcare to refused asylum seekers is inconsistent with the UK's international human rights obligations; [136397]

(2) what assessment she has made of the impact of the denial of secondary healthcare to refused asylum seekers on their health; [136399]

(3) how many refused asylum seekers *(a)* sought and *(b)* were denied access to secondary healthcare in each of the last five years. [136400]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No one in need of immediately necessary treatment to save life or prevent a condition from becoming life-threatening will ever have that treatment refused or denied, irrespective of their immigration status. However, the principle remains that the national health service is intended primarily for those who are legally resident in this country. Those who are not, including failed asylum seekers who have not left the United Kingdom, should not expect to receive NHS treatment free of charge. Successive Governments have not required NHS trusts to submit statistics on the number of overseas visitors treated, or on the cost of doing so.

The Home Office document "Enforcing the rules: a strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration laws", published in March, announced that a review of access to the NHS by foreign nationals would be carried out jointly by the Home Office and the; Department. The review, to be completed by October, will specifically consider the position of failed asylum seekers.

The Government will respond to the report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights in due course.

Health Services: Inquiries

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was in real terms of the *(a)* national confidential inquiry into suicide and homicide by people with mental illness, *(b)* confidential inquiry into maternal and child health and *(c)* national confidential inquiry into patient outcome and death in each year for which they have been running; and what assessment she has made of the merits of each of these inquiries. [135140]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following the Department's arm's length body (ALB) review, responsibility for managing the contracts the work of the three existing national confidential inquiries was transferred from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) with effect from April 2005.

The costs of the three inquiries for the last four years are:

National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD)

Annual contract value for 2007-08: £840,769.

Annual budget was £809,472 for the years 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05

Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH)

The contract is with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists as CEMACH is not a separate legal body.

Annual contract value for 2007-08: £1,384,915.

Annual budget has remained same over the years 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05.

National Confidential Inquiry into Suicides and Homicides (NCISH)

The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicides and Homicides is a national research project, established in April 1996, as part of the work of School of Medicine, Division of Psychiatry within the University of Manchester.

Annual contract value for 2007-08: £868,791.

Annual budget was £839,412 in the years 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05.

The confidential inquiries are separate, independent bodies. The NPSA agrees the bulk of their funding and through quarterly meetings, monitors each of them in terms of their performance and compliance with the terms of the contract. The agency has no role in the day to day running of the confidential inquiries.

The agency recently completed a review of the three confidential inquiries. The aim was to evaluate their impact on clinical practice, quality of care and patient safety. The findings for each are summarised as follows.

National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death

The review found that that the enquiry had a unique product history and had demonstrated significant achievements. The review panel felt that more focus should be given to assessing impact on clinical practice, where necessary in collaboration with other agencies and devolved Administrations. The review panel made a number of recommendations which are being considered by the enquiry and action is under way to address the review report's recommendations.

National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide

The review panel considered that NCISH provided value for money and was fulfilling its remit in terms of the provision of high quality, internationally renowned research thus improving patient care by providing an evidence base for changes to policy and clinical practice. The inquiry is now in the process of evaluating the implementation of key service recommendations.

Recommendations have also been made to improve governance, influence on policy across all four countries of the United Kingdom and dissemination of output. Action is under way to address the review report' recommendations and an independent steering group has been set up.

Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health

The review panel supported the work of CEMACH. The panel felt that the enquiry was adding value in terms of quality but without any cost-benefit analysis, were less able to assess its value in terms of cost.

A number of recommendations were made which included the need to review the functionality of the present organisational and committee structure. The enquiry is taking action to address the recommendations and an action plan is being actively developed.

Health Services: North West Region

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the board of the new community interest company planned by the North West strategic health authority to improve public health will be chosen; and what lines of accountability it will have. [137749]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: NHS North West is working with Heart of Mersey to set up a community interest company to develop social marketing methods to improve the health of the population in the North West of England. The project is still in development.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any consultants have been employed to advise on the setting up of the new public interest company planned by the North West strategic health authority. [137752]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The charitable organisation Heart of Mersey is developing a brand for a comprehensive approach to the promotion of better health in the North West of England. The branding work will be used as an umbrella programme for the work of the community interest company.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many E112 authorisations her Department issued in each year since 1997. [135878]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Patients may receive treatment in other member states of the European Economic Area and in Switzerland through the E112 referral scheme, in accordance with Regulation (EEC) 1408/71. This regulation co-ordinates the social security and healthcare schemes of the member states.

Information about patients from England, Scotland and Wales referred abroad using the E112 procedure is shown in the table (only figures from 1998 were readily available).

	Number of E112s issued
1998	813
1999	1,099
2001	861
2000	1,139
2002	1,120
2003	1,052
2004	353
2005	228
2006	357

Note:
The drop in referrals from 2004 is due to the change in EC healthcare rules that took place that year. Since 1 June 2004, patients no longer need an E112 for the ongoing care of pre-existing medical conditions. This is now covered on the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

Heart Diseases

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many qualified personnel are available to operate myocardial perfusion scanners in *(a)* west Lancashire, *(b)* the north-west and *(c)* England; [128226]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to recruit additional staff to operate myocardial perfusion scanners. [128228]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of qualified personnel who are available to operate myocardial perfusion scanners is not collected centrally.

Work force planning is a matter for local determination. It is for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to determine their work force needs, as they are best placed to assess the healthcare requirements of their local population.

Hospital Wards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* accident and emergency, *(b)* maternity and *(c)* paediatric hospital wards (i) closed and (ii) opened in (A) rural and (B) non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [135507]

Andy Burnham: Information regarding maternity and paediatric hospital wards is not collected in the format requested. National health service trusts self-report the number of accident and emergency (AandE) services they provide against definitions provided by the Department for the three types of AandE on a quarterly basis. The information available for type 1 (major) AandE departments is provided in the following table.

	Number of type 1 AandE departments
2001-02	196
2002-03	209
2003-04	208
2004-05	207
2005-06	203
2006-07	204

Notes:
1. QMAE data used for type 1 AandE departments for years 2002-03 to 2006-07.
2. KH03 data used for type 1 A&E departments for year 2001-02.
3. Position is at end March except for 2006-07 where position is at end December 2006.

Source:
QMAE and KH03

Prior to 2000-01, NHS trusts submitted written information on whether or not they provided AandE services. They did not submit a count of the number of services provided. The following table shows information for the number of trusts that said they were providing type 1 (major) AandE services for the period available.

	Number of trusts reporting type 1 (major) AandE services
1996-97	205
1997-98	202
1998-99	194
1999-2000	186
2000-01	179

Note:
Position is at end March.

Source:
Department of Health KH03 dataset

Junior Doctors: Recruitment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what safeguards are in place to verify the qualifications of overseas applicants in the new procedures being followed for junior hospital doctor appointments. [127202]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Applicants are expected to bring with them to interview and assessments for specialty registrar programmes evidence of the qualifications required, as outlined in the person specification. The evidence required and the application process have been designed in accordance with Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board requirements.

Medicine: Internet

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the provision on internet sites of the shortlisting marking scheme and model answers on the Medical Training Application Service (MTAS); and if she will add appropriate links to the MTAS's website to make such information available to all visitors to the website. [127672]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The evidence required and the application process through the Medical Training Application Service has been designed in accordance with Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board requirements. In view of the widespread concern over the shortlisting process we set up an independent review of the Modernising Medical Careers recruitment and selection process. This is being led by Professor Neil Douglas, vice-chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and president of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Members of the review group include representatives of the Royal Colleges, the British Medical Association, the four United Kingdom Health Departments and National Health Service Employers.

Medicine: Students

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the scoring system used for the Medical Training Application Service as part of Modernising Medical Careers operates. [131642]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* In developing the recruitment process, the Royal Colleges agreed the content and requirements of the person specifications for each specialty and level.

When undertaking shortlisting, at least two selectors scored each answer on the application forms against nationally agreed scoring criteria. Selectors are mostly clinicians in the appropriate specialty, but the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board requires lay input into the selection process.

However, as a result of the review of recruitment for specialty training, as outlined in the review group's statement on 4 April, selection will now honour the aforementioned, but also ensure that all eligible applicants to specialty training in England will be invited for interview in their first affirmed preference.

Midwives: Insurance

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for representatives of her Department to meet representatives of the Independent Midwives Association to discuss the future of professional indemnity insurance for the profession. [137750]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Chief Nursing Officer is holding a further meeting with representatives from the independent midwife community, including the Independent Midwives Association (IMA), on 21 May to update them on the progress in exploring different options available. My noble Friend the Minister of State, Lord Hunt of King's Heath, has also agreed to meet with representatives from the IMA in the future.

Midwives: Manpower

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the Royal College of Midwives' estimates of the number of full-time equivalent midwives required to ensure that the proposals in Maternity Matters can be implemented; and whether she has made her own estimate; [136500]

(2) what estimate she has made of the full-time equivalent number of *(a)* fully qualified midwives and *(b)* maternity care attendants needed in the (i) acute and (ii) community sector to enable the guarantees made in Maternity Matters to be implemented; [136501]

(3) what assessment she has made of the *(a)* overall capacity of maternity services, *(b)* qualified midwife staffing ratios on acute wards, *(c)* caseloads of community midwives and *(d)* availability of safety and monitoring equipment before the publication of Maternity Matters; [136502]

(4) what factors were taken into account by her Department in estimating the appropriate caseload of community midwives to enable the guarantees in Maternity Matters to be implemented; [136504]

(5) what estimate she has made of the additional *(a)* staff and *(b)* facilities which will be needed to implement the Maternity Matters proposals. [136506]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The 2007-08 NHS operating framework requires local national health service organisations to undertake a review of their maternity services, identify the gaps and barriers to service development and set out their local strategy for delivery of Maternity Matters. The review needs to include an assessment of their work force capacity.

Some NHS organisations may identify the need to invest in their services and resources to enable them to adapt and enhance services and some may increase their work force capacity. Strategies will need to identify the appropriate staffing ratio, skill mix and caseloads based on the needs of the local population. It is important that these decisions are made locally as they know their local needs best and can ensure that services are developed to meet these needs.

Maternity Matters highlights the need to engage with all stakeholders throughout local implementation and this will be supported by national engagement with representatives from a range of stakeholders, including the Royal College of Midwives.

MRSA

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of STERIS vaporised hydrogen peroxide technology in tackling MRSA within the NHS. [136298]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1843W.

NHS: Constitutions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to establish a constitution for the NHS. [137041]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* The founding values of the national health service are secure with this Government. The Government continue to develop the vision and policies for an NHS that is fit for the challenges of a new century. In this context, an NHS constitution could provide a clear expression of what is unchanging about the values of the NHS. It would set down and protect the values of what is a precious and unique institution, at the same time as the NHS itself is reforming and improving. The Government are currently exploring the idea of a constitution for the NHS, on which it could then consult. If successful, this work and consultation could lead to the adoption of a new constitution for the NHS in 2008, its 60th anniversary year, setting out a direction for the next decade.

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what she expects the estimated change in costs to the NHS to be of implementing the new consultants' contract in each of the years to 2011-12. [135771]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The new consultant contract was implemented over three years from 2003-04 to 2005-06. Around 90 per cent. of consultants are now on the new contract, and all new appointments will be to the new contract. The funding invested included a recurrent addition of £250 million to meet the additional costs of consultant pay that are a consequence of having implemented the new contract.

NHS: Lost Working Days

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many working days were lost *(a)* in her Department and *(b)* in the NHS owing to sickness and injury in 2006. [126076]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The average number of working days lost per person in the Department in 2006 because of sickness and injury was 8.7. This is a provisional figure and covers the core Department only.

The average number of working days lost per person in the national health service in 2005 because of sickness and injury is estimated to be 9.9. Information for 2006 is not yet available.

NHS: Management

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the merits of an independent board for the NHS. [134155]

Andy Burnham: The Government have already introduced significant independence into decision-making in the national health service, reducing Whitehall control over decisions that are better taken at regional and local level.

The Government's reforms are devolving decision-making and giving people more choice and more say, so that the NHS responds to the wishes of the public. Foundation trusts are free from day-to-day Whitehall control, allowing them to innovate and improve clinical care for the benefit of patients. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence gives independent advice to the NHS on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of different drugs and treatments that should be available across the NHS. The independent Healthcare Commission assesses healthcare providers against a set of national quality standards, and publishes independent assessments of how well hospitals are doing at providing safe and effective care.

The Government keep under review the way the Department and the NHS work together.

NHS: Public Appointments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many appointments the Appointments Commission made in each year since its creation; [135968]

(2) how many appointees chosen by the Appointments Commission in each year since its creation *(a)* had served and *(b)* were serving in another appointed capacity. [135969]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have asked the Chair of the Commission to write to the hon. Member with the information on numbers of appointments.

NHS: Resignations

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what were the reasons given for the resignation of *(a)* Professor Alan Crockard as National Director for Modernising Medical Careers and *(b)* his deputy Professor Shelley Heard. [135744]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The resignation letters were private letters to Sir Liam Donaldson and therefore it is not appropriate for the Department to divulge their contents.

NHS: Training

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent consideration she has given to the merits of increasing the number of training posts in the national health service. [135898]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of training posts agreed for 2007 was announced in December 2006 following extensive local negotiations between strategic health authorities, postgraduate deaneries and national health service trusts to establish the appropriate numbers required to meet service and training needs. The former Minister of State Lord Warner committed the Government to at least 18,000 additional training posts in England.

The review group is exploring the possibilities for creating further training opportunities where these can support local workforce requirements. This work is currently ongoing.

Parkinson's Disease: Prescriptions

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will review the effect of charges for prescriptions for sufferers of Parkinson's disease. [134314]

Caroline Flint: We are currently undertaking a review of prescription charges and will be reporting the outcome before the summer recess. This review will include options to:

revise the list of medical exemptions to prescription charges;

introduce a flat rate prescription charge with no exemptions; and

base exemption to prescription charges solely on income.

These options will be considered on the basis that any changes to prescription charge exemptions, if implemented, are cost-neutral for the national health service.

Primary Care Trusts: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what local targets referred to in the operating framework for 2007-08, gateway reference 7408, published on 11 December 2006, have so far been agreed between primary care trusts and providers. [135876]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Primary Health Care

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to ensure that clinical professionals other than general practitioners receive appropriate training to carry out semi-specialist services at a primary care level; and if she will make a statement. [122830]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is not responsible for setting curricula for health professional training; that is rightly the responsibility of the statutory and professional bodies. However, we do share a commitment with those bodies that all health professionals are trained so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a high-quality health service to all groups of the population with whom they deal.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are decided against local national health service priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

Access to training is affected by a number of factors such as the availability of funding, whether staff can be released and the availability of appropriate training interventions, mentors and assessors. It would not be practical for the centre to be prescriptive on this.

Recruitment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 809-10W, on recruitment, what plans her Department has to collect further data from strategic health authorities relating to the employment position of graduates at later dates than 30 November 2006. [135823]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The current data collection on graduates focuses on those who graduated in September 2006. It is the Department's intention that further data on those who graduated in February 2007 will be collected.

The time scale for this, along with other aspects of the collection such as its frequency and format, is still being discussed with strategic health authorities. The Department remains committed to reducing the burden of data collection on the national health service, and we are exploring the use of data from the talent pools and NHS Employers.

Ritalin

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were prescribed Ritalin in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* the area corresponding as closely as possible to Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in each of the last seven years, broken down by age. [134770]

Caroline Flint: Ritalin is one brand of the drug methylphenidate hydrochloride. The Department does not hold data on the number of patients prescribed methylphenidate hydrochloride drugs but the table shows the number of prescription items dispensed in the community for the areas requested.

Estimated figures are based on a sample of one in 20 prescriptions and have been grossed up to reflect the population totals and rounded.

Prescription items for methylphenidate hydrochloride

Thousand

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England							
Prescription item dispensed	186.2	208.5	254.0	314.5	359.1	389.2	456.9
Estimated number of items dispensed to children	160.0	190.0	230.0	280.0	330.0	350.0	410.0
Estimated number of items dispensed to the elderly	2.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	5.0	6.0

Prescription items for methylphenidate hydrochloride

Thousand

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East England							
Prescription items prescribed in North East England	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.0	17.9	19.4	22.7
Primary care trust (PCT)							
Prescription items prescribed in Langbaurgh PCT (to end September 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6
Prescription items prescribed in Redcar and Cleveland PCT (from 1 October 2006)	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.3
Prescription items prescribed in Middlesbrough PCT (to end September 2006)	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5
Prescription items prescribed in Middlesbrough PCT (from 1 October 2006)	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.3

Note: Primary care trusts were reorganised with effect from 1 October.

Wheelchairs: Voucher Schemes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which primary care trusts provided wheelchair vouchers for families with a disabled child in each of the last three financial years; [135759]

(2) whether she has made an assessment of the *(a)* adequacy and *(b)* merits for families of the NHS Wheelchair Voucher scheme; [135760]

(3) what progress has been made in meeting the Health Care Standards for Wheelchair Services under the NHS, as agreed by the National Wheelchair Managers' Forum in March 2005; and if she will make a statement; [135761]

(4) how much was spent on NHS wheelchair services for *(a)* children and young people and *(b)* others in England in each of the last five financial years, broken down by primary care trust; [135762]

(5) what assessment she has made of the mobility needs of children who do not meet NHS eligibility criteria for powered indoor and outdoor wheelchairs; [135763]

(6) what percentage of children and young people under the age of 18 referred to a local wheelchair service in each of the last five years did not meet the NHS's eligibility criteria for *(a)* a lightweight manual

wheelchair and *(b)* a powered indoor and outdoor wheelchair; [135764]

(7) which NHS wheelchair services provided powered indoor-outdoor wheelchairs for disabled children and young people aged *(a)* two years and under, *(b)* between the ages of three and five years, *(c)* between the ages of six and 12 years and *(d)* between the ages of 13 and 18 years in each of the last three years. [135765]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect centrally the following information:

the number of primary care trusts (PCTs) which provided wheelchair vouchers to families with a disabled child in each of the last three financial years;

how much was spent on national health service wheelchair services for *(a)* children and young people and *(b)* others in England, broken down by primary care trust, in each of the last five financial years;

what percentage of children and young people under the age of 18 referred to a local wheelchair service in each of the last five years did not meet the NHS's eligibility criteria for *(a)* a lightweight manual wheelchair and *(b)* a powered indoor and outdoor wheelchair; and

which NHS wheelchair services provided powered indoor-outdoor wheelchairs to disabled children and young people aged *(a)* aged two years and under, *(b)* between the ages of three and five years, *(c)* between the ages of six and 12 years and *(d)* between the ages of 13 and 18 years in each of the last three years.

The Department commissioned the York Health Economics Consortium to evaluate the powered wheelchair and voucher scheme initiatives. Its report, published in March 2000, recommended that the continuation of voucher schemes should be a matter for local decision in consultation with service users.

The transforming community equipment and wheelchair services programme has developed two potential models for wheelchair services in collaboration with users and their carers. However, further data are required before recommendations can be made for the way forward. The programme will be working with wheelchair services to develop the new data gathering exercise. David Nicholson, the NHS Chief Executive, will be writing to PCTs and strategic health authorities to encourage them to support this next stage of the programme.

The mobility needs of children are assessed at a local level as part of individual needs assessments and planning. No separate assessment is made by the Department.

The National Wheelchair Managers' Forum has adopted the national wheelchair service standards (2004). A national working party developed the standards. This document was not produced or endorsed by the Department and is not subject to Departmental monitoring or review.

Young People: Alcoholic Drinks

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to inform young people of the long-term impact of sustained, excessive alcohol consumption on their health. [132316]

Caroline Flint: The Government are determined to reduce the harm caused to young people by alcohol misuse and committed to educating young people on the very real harm it can cause. Alcohol education is now part of the national curriculum. Updated guidance makes clear that alcohol education should be about sensible drinking and reducing harm.

The Government have funded a high profile alcohol campaign, 'Know your Limits', aimed at 18 to 24-year-old binge drinkers, warning them of the harms associated with binge drinking.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 21 May 2007

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Book Aid International: Finance

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reason the Government have not continued to provide funding for Book Aid International beyond 31 March. [137903]

Mr. Thomas: DFID (and formally the Overseas Development Administration) has been providing substantial core funding to Book Aid International (BAI) for over 30 years. In 2004 BAI were made aware that DFID planned for a phased reduction in its support. However to allow BAI time to continue its efforts to diversify its sources of funding, we agreed, exceptionally, to provide further funding amounting to £0.85 million over three years in support of their three-year business plan.

This time-bound grant funding has now come to an end. However, we have in the past few years regularly encouraged BAI to apply for DFID funding that is available to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) through our Civil Society Challenge Fund and Partnership Programme Agreements. While we recognise that there is strong competition among NGOs for the resources available we do hope that BAI will apply.

As my right hon. Friend the Chancellor said in his reply to the hon. Member for Ludlow on 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 287-88, this Government have doubled the amount of money invested in schools, teachers, books and education generally in areas of Africa where BAI operate. We believe that BAI's knowledge and experience of books provision and library services in Africa after many years of DFID funding will continue to help Governments develop library and information services, and that they will remain an important development partner in the region.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [137706]

Mr. Thomas: There are six staff within DFID who are currently between postings. All have access to information on available vacancies, and are provided with support to ensure that they obtain a permanent posting as quickly as possible. In the meantime, they will be engaged on short-term, temporary or project work which makes best use of their skills and knowledge, and which reduces the need to use agency staff or consultants.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project; [137828]

(2) what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years; [137829]

(3) what value of annual private finance initiative payments by his Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project; [137830]

(4) what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments was *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137831]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has had no private finance initiative projects in the last five years.

Food Aid: Children

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage other bilateral and multilateral donors to provide funding for tackling child hunger and malnutrition. [135631]

Mr. Thomas: At the core of DFID's mission is a commitment to support developing countries to realise the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Action on child hunger and malnutrition is reflected in the first goal. Much current bilateral and multilateral aid will impact positively on child nutrition, investment in education, primary health care, water and sanitation, job creation, and rural livelihoods. DFID multilateral contributions in 2005-06 which impact positively on child nutrition include contributions to the UN Development Programme (UNDP)—£52.7 million, UNICEF—£32.4 million, World Food Programme—£5 million, and to the Food and Agricultural Organisation—£4.8 million.

DFID strongly encourages other donors to fulfil the commitments made at Gleneagles and the UN Millennium summit to provide more aid to achieve the MDGs, including MDG 1 (which includes child hunger and malnutrition).

DFID will issue a new health strategy in June. Part of this strategy will be to carry out a policy review on our approach to child malnutrition.

World Bank

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if the Government will make it their policy to establish an open and merit-based selection process for the President of the World Bank. [138323]

Hilary Benn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 13W.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Compensation

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will reissue the recent guidance on the rules governing compensation for air passengers within the EU, ensuring that the rights of UK passengers are made clearer. [138205]

Gillian Merron: The Air Transport Users Council (AUC) is the body designated under UK law to handle complaints pertaining to Regulation (EC) 261/2004 ("the Regulation"). Guidance for UK passengers on their rights under the regulation is available on the AUC's website at www.caa.co.uk/auc.

The European Commission has published an updated poster setting out passengers' rights which will be displayed in airports in due course.

Bus Services: Concessions

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the specifications for the planned standard national concessionary bus travel pass will be compatible with the Oyster and Smartcard systems operated in London. [137748]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* Subject to a forthcoming consultation and discussions with suppliers, it is anticipated that we will require the national concessionary bus travel pass for England to be an ITSO compliant smartcard.

In May 2006 the Mayor of London and Secretary of State for Transport agreed that the Oyster network would be made interoperable with ITSO smartcards. A technical solution to achieve this is under development.

Shipping: Radioactive Materials

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what bilateral agreements with *(a)* other European Union States, *(b)* Norway and *(c)* Russia are in place to provide emergency response to an incident in their waters involving a vessel carrying plutonium-based MOX fuel being moved from Sellafield. [137555]

Dr. Ladyman: Companies operating ships used to transport MOX are required to have a shipboard emergency plan which would be activated in the event of an incident. The plan may involve contractual agreements with overseas organisations to provide assistance but are not dependent on the existence of bilateral agreements between the UK government and other states.

Wolverton Station: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who made the decision to reduce the funding available for the upgrade of Wolverton Station from £2 million to £400,000. [138160]

Mr. Tom Harris: The award of financial support to Milton Keynes council, under the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) was not specific as to the division between the amounts for Milton Keynes Central and Wolverton stations. This was for the local authority to determine, in agreement with Network Rail.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider extending the deadline of 31 March 2008 for the use of the grant for the upgrade of Wolverton Station. [138230]

Mr. Tom Harris: No. One of the specific conditions attached to the award of financial support from the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) was that such assistance must be used by 31 March 2008. This has been consistently made clear throughout the whole process and has been accepted by Milton Keynes council.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Billing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 890-91W, on Departments: billing, if he will instruct all Northern Ireland departments to maintain a record of discounts *(a)* offered on bills from suppliers and *(b)* received. [134894]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Prisons: Health Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many health care workers were employed at each prison establishment in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years, broken down by type. [136053]

Paul Goggins: Two types of Prison Service staff provide health care functions. Nurse officers who were recruited directly as health care professionals, and health care officers who are discipline prison officers with additional training and specialise in the health care function. Agency staff are used to address shortfalls in staffing levels, but these are not included in the number of staff in post.

The information requested is outlined in the following tables.

Health care staff in post at 31 March 2002

	Establishment			
Grade	*Maghaberry*	*Magilligan*	*Hydebank*	*Total*
Principal officer	1	0	1	2
Senior officer	6	1	1	8
Officer	50	12	8	70
Pharmacy officer	0	0	0	0
Total	57	13	10	80

Health care staff in post at 31 March 2003

Grade	Establishment: Maghaberry	Magilligan	Hydebank	Total
Principal officer	1	0	1	2
Senior officer	7	1	0	8
Officer	44.5	12	9	65.5
Pharmacy officer	1	0	0	1
Total	53.5	13	10	76.5

Health care staff in post at 31 March 2004

Grade	Establishment: Maghaberry	Magilligan	Hydebank	Total
Principal officer	1	0	0	1
Senior officer	4	1	1	6
Officer	40.5	13	8	61.5
Pharmacy officer	1	0	0	1
Total	46.5	14	9	69.5

Health care staff in post at 31 March 2005

Grade	Establishment: Maghaberry	Magilligan	Hydebank	Total
Principal officer	1	0	0	1
Senior officer	4	1	1	6
Officer	36	12.5	10	58.5
Pharmacy officer	1	0	0	1
Total	42	13.5	11	66.5

Health care staff in post at 31 March 2006

Grade	Establishment: Maghaberry	Magilligan	Hydebank	Total
Principal officer	1	1	0	1
Senior officer	4	1	1	6
Officer	43	14	13	70
Pharmacy officer	1	0	0	1
Total	49	15	14	78

Health care staff in post at 31 March 2007

Grade	Establishment: Maghaberry	Magilligan	Hydebank	Total
Principal officer	0	0	0	0
Senior officer	4	1	1	6
Officer	41.5	13	13	67.5
Pharmacy officer	1	0	0	1
Total	46.5	14	14	74.5

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Imports

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which public body is responsible for stopping ruminants from northern France being landed at Dover. [137651]

Mr. Bradshaw: Animal Health (formerly known as the State Veterinary Service) is responsible for monitoring imports of animals into the UK.

Beef: Prices

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what change there has been in beef prices paid to farmers in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [137641]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* The average price to farmers in England and Wales for finished cattle (steers, heifers and young bulls) is the same in the week ending 9 May 2007 as one year previously at 108 pence per kilo. The average price over the 12 month period was 111 pence per kilo.

Biodiversity: Moths

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential impact on biodiversity of trends in the numbers of common species of moths. [137889]

Barry Gardiner: No detailed assessment has been made of the potential impact on biodiversity of trends in the numbers of common species of moths. Recent research indicates that more species of common moths are in decline than are increasing in numbers, probably largely due to changes in land use and the effects of climate change. The roles that moths play in the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity are known to be significant, because moths are generally abundant, and they have important food chain links with plants, bats and birds.

Biofuels

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the rules governing the exemptions to the Waste Management Regulations on *(a)* the development of biogas facilities and *(b)* the production of energy via commercial anaerobic digestion. [136849]

Mr. Bradshaw: No specific assessment has been made by my Department.

DEFRA has started a comprehensive review of exemptions from waste management licensing and has produced a discussion document on the options and issues. The review will take a risk-based approach to the provision of exemptions and will ultimately complement the environmental permitting regime, which is due to come into force in April 2008. My Department will be

formally consulting on proposals and representations will be invited from all sectors of industry affected by the proposed regulations.

In order to encourage the greater uptake of anaerobic digestion, I am also pleased that the Environment Agency has agreed to develop a standard for digestate in 2007-08. This will allow modern regulatory principles to be applied to the use of this material and bring certainty to when it is considered to be "fully recovered". This should help to facilitate the development of markets for digestate.

Bluetongue Disease

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what checks are in place to prevent ruminants being transported to the UK from those parts of northern France in which blue tongue is prevalent. [137652]

Mr. Bradshaw: In accordance with EU legislation, susceptible animals travelling from or through a bluetongue restricted area are permitted only if the member state of destination—and transit as applicable—gives prior authorisation for the animals to enter their country. DEFRA currently does not authorise imports of animals originating from bluetongue affected areas, or those that have been moved through an affected area.

Within the UK, all susceptible animals imported from bluetongue-free member states (not including Ireland) are post-import tested for the bluetongue virus.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* consultations his Department held on bovine tuberculosis and badger culling policy in August 2006; and if he will make a statement. [137628]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ministers and officials met with various organisations in August 2006 as part of the course of business and discussed a variety of important matters, including bovine TB and badger culling.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what advice he has received from the Central Science Laboratory on the efficacy of a badger cull to counteract bovine TB; [137778]

(2) if he will publish the results of research commissioned by his Department on the relationship between badger numbers and the incidence of bovine TB. [137779]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA publishes the final reports of all its research projects as soon as possible following project completion and review of the project report. Published final reports are available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/research/projects.htm.

The Central Science Laboratory (CSL) provided an estimate of trapping efficacy of 20-60 per cent. in the Randomised Badger Culling Trial, based on available data and their expert opinion, for DEFRA's 2006 consultation document on badger culling. The CSL has since revised those estimates upwards to 35-85 per cent. in the light of further data provided by the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB. The revised estimates are to be published in a paper in the 26 May issue of the Veterinary Record.

Coastal Areas

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the contribution to the rural economy of coastal walking routes and national trails. [137674]

Barry Gardiner: Research carried out during 2004-05 for the Countryside Agency (now part of Natural England) estimates that 12 million visits are paid to the National Trail network in England each year. In 2003, the Countryside Agency and the South West of England Regional Development Agency commissioned research to mark the Silver Jubilee of the 630 mile long South West Coastal Path. The principal aim of the research was to assess the economic value of the Path. The results of the research indicated that the Path generated about £307 million a year for the region's economy.

We are currently considering Natural England's report on coastal access and will shortly launch a public consultation document inviting views on ways for improving access. On the same day, we will publish a partial regulatory impact assessment and the research study which we commissioned looking at the benefits and costs of each of the options. The research includes an assessment of the benefits to local economies and levels of expenditure by people using a number of the national trails.

Coastal Areas: Access

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government's commitment to improving access to the coast includes improving access to all private beaches. [137677]

Barry Gardiner: Natural England's recent report on coastal access recommended that new legislation should be introduced to enable it to align a "coastal access corridor", including the vast majority of beaches, around the whole coast.

We will decide how best to improve access to beaches in the light of responses to the public consultation on improving access to the coast.

Environmental Protection Act 1990

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on *(a)* fines and *(b)* prosecutions implemented relating to Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. [137849]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA does not hold the information requested.

Data on noise prosecutions are collected and held by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

Flowers: Conservation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken by his Department since May 2005 *(a)* to protect wild flower meadows and *(b)* to encourage the planting of wild flowers. [137855]

Barry Gardiner: The UK Biodiversity Action Plan helps to co-ordinate work at national and local levels by identifying priorities for action and setting biological targets for the recovery of habitats and species, including wildflowers.

Flower meadows are benefiting from at least 10 awards made under the Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund. This scheme is administered by Natural England, but the funding, £1.95 million in both 2006-07 and 2007-08, is provided by DEFRA.

We also encourage structured wild flower establishment through the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, the support of education/information sources like Flora Locale, and highly targeted re-establishment programmes for particular endangered taxa. These include the ongoing restoration of Lady's Slipper Orchid to 12 sites across northern England.

Fly-Tipping

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 10 areas of the UK had the highest number of fly-tipping incidents in 2006-07 according to the Flycapture database. [137552]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data for 2006-07 from Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, will be published in the summer.

The areas in England with the highest number of fly-tipping incidents recorded in 2005-06 are shown in the following table:

Number	*Local authority*	*Incident number*
1	Liverpool city council	1,249,527
2	London borough of Wandsworth	166,195
3	Sheffield city council	161,898
4	London borough of Haringey	63,767
5	Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea	58,374
6	Manchester city council	30,818
7	Birmingham city council	25,782
8	London borough of Southwark	24,852
9	London borough of Lewisham	18,987
10	Portsmouth city council	18,883

These data reflect the particular circumstances of the local authority area. As a result of Best Value Performance Indicator 199d on fly-tipping, local authorities are now being monitored for their performance in reducing overall incident numbers and increasing the amount of enforcement activity, year-on-year. Flycapture was always intended to be a management information tool to help target action, rather than to produce 'league tables'.

Greyhounds

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he is taking to stop greyhounds being killed or abandoned when their use as sporting dogs is over. [138475]

Mr. Bradshaw: The is no law to prevent the humane euthanasia of a greyhound when its racing career has finished.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 strengthened the law on the abandonment of animals by introducing an offence of failing to provide for the welfare needs of an animal. This applies to owners and keepers of all animals, including racing and retired greyhounds.

The Act also allows regulations to be made to promote the welfare of animals for which a person is responsible. The Government are committed to introducing new regulations to protect the welfare of racing greyhounds. We understand that the industry is making significant steps in improving the number of greyhounds which are re-homed, although more needs to be done. We would like more action to taken by the industry to ensure that the number of dogs used in racing matches the number that can be re-homed at the end of their career.

Nature Conservation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of species which became extinct in England in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [137854]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1135W.

Non-Food Environmental Grazing Animals

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of environmental grazing *(a)* cattle and *(b)* sheep used for land maintenance rather than for food production purposes in England. [137316]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* Data are not collected on the number of cattle and sheep used for environmental grazing rather than food production. However, many animals used for food production will also help maintain or enhance the environment.

Site of Special Scientific Interest

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the condition was of each site of special scientific interest (SSSI) in each year since 1997; and what the total land area of SSSIs was in each category in England in each *(a)* region and *(b)* location. [137857]

Barry Gardiner: There are 4,113 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in England covering 1,076,543 hectares. Each SSSI is subdivided into one or more units for the purposes of management and assessing condition. In total there are about 22,000 SSSI units and the latest information on the condition of each is available on the Natural England website at:

http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/sssi/search.cfm

The following table summarises the condition of SSSIs in England by year and by Government region. The first six-year monitoring cycle was completed in October 2003, and it is therefore only possible to provide accurate figures for the overall condition of SSSIs from then on.

Area and proportion of SSSIs in Target Condition[1] in England's Government regions from 2003 to 2007

	31 October 2003		*31 March 2004*		*31 March 2005*		*31 March 2006*		*31 March 2007*	
Government region	*Area[2]*	*Percentage*	*Area[2]*	*Percentage*	*Area[2]*	*Percentage*	*Area[2]*	*Percentage*	*Area[2]*	*Percentage*
Eastern	96,575	75.9	100,321	76.6	100,770	77.2	101,321	78.7	99,458	77.2
East Midlands	52,736	50.9	55,407	48.8	58,700	52.3	71,743	68.5	73,057	69.7
London	2,615	68.8	2,431	63.5	2,284	59.7	2,668	70.1	2,705	70.4
North East	46,024	41.9	50,643	46.2	54,782	50.8	58,381	53.6	70,594	64.3
North West	124,745	59.2	139,584	67.3	157,684	77.4	169,348	81.8	173,199	83.6
South East	86,691	65.6	89,272	67.0	93,099	70.0	105,021	78.6	108,931	80.1
South West	115,527	68.0	120,935	71.4	127,810	75.6	133,260	78.9	133,012	78.7
West Midlands	14,834	55.9	16,986	62.0	17,972	65.7	19,004	71.6	18,908	71.0
Yorkshire/ Humber	72,994	43.6	99,452	55.7	105,846	58.9	113,360	60.1	129,992	68.9
Total	612,741	58.3	675,032	62.9	718,947	67.4	774,105	72.3	809,857	75.4

[1] 'Target Condition' encompasses the condition categories of favourable and unfavourable recovering.
[2] Hectares.

Beef

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which countries refuse to import UK beef. [136957]

Barry Gardiner: We are currently able to export UK beef to EU member states and Barbados. My Department is working closely with the UK industry to identify priority non-EU export markets. DEFRA, with the support of Foreign and Commonwealth Office overseas posts, is negotiating the health conditions under which UK beef may be exported to these priority non-EU markets.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much the Waste and Resources Action Programme spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* bonuses in each year since 1997; [136781]

(2) how much the Waste and Resources Action Programme spent on administration in each year since 1997. [136782]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) was established in December 2000 with funding from DEFRA, the Department of Trade and Industry and the devolved assemblies.

The data requested are published in WRAP'S annual reports (available on their website) and are set out in the following table:

£

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Salaries	1,295,000	2,357,000	4,049,000	6,577,000	8,564,000
Bonuses	—	13,500	—	39,000	63,000
Administration costs	2,226,000	1,131,000	1,592,000	1,563,000	2,595,000

Salaries are benchmarked against those in similar sized organisations and bonuses are paid to executive directors based on achievement of specific objectives aligned with WRAP'S goals.

WRAP is part funded through the landfill tax.

WRAP'S annual account and report for 2006-07 has not yet been published.

Whales: Conservation

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will continue to support anti-whaling measures internationally. [138076]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* The UK has been, and will remain, at the forefront of the fight to ensure that the anti-whaling countries' attempts to restart commercial whaling and to reduce the level of protection afforded to cetacean species around the world do not succeed.

The UK will again be one of the few countries represented by a minister, my hon. Friend the Minister for Biodiversity (Barry Gardiner), at this month's International Whaling Commission meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. The UK's key aim will be to resist

any attempts to end the moratorium on commercial whaling, or otherwise weaken the Commission's conservation agenda.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Australia: Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the primary *(a)* imported and *(b)* exported goods and services are between the UK and (i) Australia and (ii) New Zealand. [138175]

Mr. McCartney: For trade in goods with Australia and New Zealand, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 72-75W.

Table 9.11 of the ONS UK Balance of Payments Pink Book indicate that leading UK services imports from Australia in 2005 were travel at £999 million and transportation at £438 million out of a total of £1,808 million. Leading UK services exports to Australia in 2005 were transportation at £855 million and travel at £663 million out of a total of £2,584 million.

No similar breakdown is available for New Zealand of the total UK imports of services of £497 million in 2005 and exports of £391 million. Using International Trade In Services data for 2005, UK imports of travel services from New Zealand were £388 million, while exports of travel services to New Zealand were £141 million; it is likely that transportation services were a significant proportion of the remainder.

Beer

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will bring forward proposals for legislation on the availability of guest beers in public houses. [138275]

Mr. McCartney: The Supply of Beer (Tied Estate) (Revocation) Order 2002 repealed the earlier Orders which provided that brewers and brewery groups owning more than 2,000 licensed premises allow their "tied" premises to sell a draught cask-conditioned beer and, a bottle-conditioned beer, supplied by someone else.

A statutory requirement on pubcos to allow all tied tenants the option of offering a guest would run contrary to EU competition law and could lead to the UK Government being challenged in the European Courts.

It is, therefore, a matter for the parties during detailed contract negotiations to discuss and agree beer supplies which may include guest beers or rights to directly source some or all of their beer supplies

The ability of public houses to offer a broader range of products, for example to satisfy demand for local products, is important in the interests of extending consumer choice.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he plans to take to improve access to markets for small brewers. [138276]

Mr. McCartney: The beer market is subject to the same competition regime as any other market.

A statutory requirement on pubcos to allow all tied tenants the option of offering a guest beer of a particular type, for example cask ales and regional or national specialities, would run contrary to EU competition law and could lead to the UK Government being challenged in the European Courts.

However, the ability of public houses to offer a broader range of products, for example to satisfy demand for local products, is important in the interests of extending consumer choice.

The Government have taken steps to help small brewers. The Beer from Small Breweries (Extension of Reduced Rates of Excise Duty) Order 2004 was introduced especially to assist small brewers through reduced rates of excise duty for beer from breweries producing up to 60,000 hectolitres of beer a year.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will review the appropriateness of the system whereby public houses are tied to a pub company or brewer; and if he will make a statement. [138277]

Mr. McCartney: While some particular regulatory arrangements do apply to the wholesale beer market, for example in relation to excise duty, the market is also subject to the same competition regime as any other. The independent competition authorities, namely the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Competition Commission (CC), enforce fair competition, rather than the Government.

This market was last considered in July 2005 when the OFT announced that it would not initiate such an investigation, commenting that

"The market for the supply of beer [...] has been extensively examined in recent years by the OFT and the CC. It has been found to be broadly competitive and in a process of development."

Business: EC Law

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the timetable is for the implementation of the Unfair Commercial Practices Regulations; and whether the UK will be subject to EU sanctions for failing to meet the EU deadline for implementation. [138425]

Mr. McCartney: On 29 May I will be launching a consultation seeking views on draft Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations to implement the unfair commercial practices directive. The Regulations will be made in the autumn to come into force on 6 April 2008.

Short delays in implementing complex EU directives is not uncommon and I do not expect this to lead to the European Commission bringing any action against the UK.

Clothing: Fire Prevention

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which items of nightwear are covered by the Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985;

whether boys' pyjamas are covered by the regulations; what plans there are to review the coverage of the regulations; and if he will make a statement. [135971]

Mr. McCartney: The Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985 apply to nightwear including garments commonly worn as nightwear such as nightdresses, dressing gowns, bath robes and similar items. Children's pyjamas do not have to comply with the flammability standard of the regulations, but they must carry a permanent label with the wording 'Keep Away From Fire' in red letters if they do not. The regulations do not distinguish between boys' and girls' pyjamas, and are already the most stringent in Europe—most member states have no legislation in this area. There are no current plans, therefore, to review these regulations. In addition, manufacturers of clothing, including pyjamas, that do not meet the flammability standard of the regulations have a responsibility to ensure their products are safe under The General Product Safety Regulations 2005. Taken together, these regulations provide adequate flammability safety for children's nightwear in the UK.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the current law is relating to the flammability of pyjamas for children; and whether the rules are the same for boys' and girls' pyjamas. [133728]

Mr. McCartney: The Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985 apply to nightwear including garments commonly worn as nightwear. Children's pyjamas do not have to comply with the flammability standard of the regulations, but they must carry a permanent label with the wording 'Keep Away From Fire' in red letters if they do not. The regulations do not distinguish between boys' and girls' pyjamas. Manufacturers of pyjamas that do not meet the flammability standard of the regulations have a responsibility to ensure their products are safe under The General Product Safety Regulations 2005.

Industrial Democracy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate has been made of the likely annual cost to businesses with 50 to 150 employees of compliance with the Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations from 6 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [138110]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The regulatory impact assessment prepared during the implementation of the Regulations estimated the aggregated annual cost to enterprises with 50 to 150 employees of adopting or changing information and consultation procedures to comply with the Regulations to be between £3.18 million and £6.6 million in 2008; £2.78 million and £6.2 million in 2009, 2010 and 2011; and £2.78 million and £4.7 million in 2012.

Research Councils: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding his Department allocated to the *(a)* Arts and Humanities Research Council, *(b)* Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, *(c)* Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, *(d)* Economic and Social Research Council, *(e)* Medical Research Council, *(f)* National Environment Research Council and *(g)* Science and Technology Facilities Council in each of the last 10 years. [138133]

Malcolm Wicks: The funding for the Research Councils from the Department of Trade and Industry in each of the last 10 years was as follows:

Science Budget Allocations from 1997-98 to 2006-07

Programme	*1997-98*[a]	*1998-99*[a]	*1999-2000*[a]	*2000-01*[a]	*2001-02*[b]	*2002-03*[b]	*2003-04*[b]	*2004-05*[b]	*2005-06*[b]	*2006-07*[b]
Research Councils										
Arts and Humanities Research Council[c]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80.5	91.4
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	183.3	185.7	198.3	203.0	214.0	232.6	265.0	287.6	336.2	371.6
Economic and Social Research Council	64.9	66.0	69.8	71.2	74.4	82.8	94.6	105.3	123.5	142.5
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	386.4	383.0	397.6	410.9	436.2	461.5	468.5	497.3	568.2	636.3
Medical Research Council	289.1	290.2	304.5	319.2	349.6	371.9	429.9	455.3	478.8	503.5
Natural Environment Research Council	165.1	168.8	178.5	181.8	192.9	205.4	264.1	314.3	334.0	359.4

Science Budget Allocations from 1997-98 to 2006-07

Programme	*1997-98*[a]	*1998-99*[a]	*1999-2000*[a]	*2000-01*[a]	*2001-02*[b]	*2002-03*[b]	*2003-04*[b]	*2004-05*[b]	*2005-06*[b]	*2006-07*[b]
Science and Technology Facilities Council[d]	193.3	195.7	198.3	217.7	233.7	248.5	414.5	482.8	511.4	533.8
Research Councils	1,282.1	1,289.4	1,347.0	1,403.6	1,500.8	1,602.8	1,936.6	2,142.5	2,432.6	2,638.4

[a] The allocation for financial years 1997-98 to 2000-01 are on a cash basis.
[b] The allocations for financial years 2001-02 onwards are on a resource accounting and budgeting basis.
[c] AHRC did not become the responsibility of the Department of Trade and Industry until 1 April 2005.
[d] The Science and Technology Facilities Council was created on 1 April 2007 through the merger of two separate Research Councils—the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council. The figures here are the consolidated allocations of those two Research Councils.

Note:
The figures have been obtained from the allocations booklet.

Seals: Animal Products

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will set out a timetable for the introduction of a national ban on seal products; and if he will make a statement. [138075]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* The Government have no plans to introduce a national ban as operation of the EU single market means that only an EU-wide import ban would be effective.

DEFENCE

Ammunition: Iraq

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what type of munitions were fired in Iraq by *(a)* 20 Armed Brigade and *(b)* 19 Light Brigade in each month of their deployment. [134710]

Mr. Ingram: The number and type of munitions fired in Iraq by 20 Armoured Brigade and 19 Light Brigade in each month of their deployment is shown in the following table.

	20 Armoured brigade							*19 Light brigade*			
Commodity	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug.*	*Sept.*	*Oct.*	*Nov.*	*Dec.*	*Jan.*	*Feb.*	*Mar.*
RD 5.56MM BALL CTN L2 SA80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	107	1	1	0
RD 5.56MM BALL BDR L2 SA80	7,896	959	1,961	7,445	15,975	1,750	6,380	2,783	1,450	3,417	1,977
RD 5.56MM TRA CTN	10	0	3	70	895	555	6	57	917	0	33
RD 5.56MM 4B/1T BDR SA80	741	1,175	404	2,316	13,063	1,771	1,050	1,255	338	1,604	762
RD5.56MM4B/1T MINIMI	396	322	3,166	22,450	21,697	11,251	963	2,550	1,341	2,924	2,426
RD 7.62MM BALL SNPR L42A1	8	7	0	13	497	81	15	53	19	229	114
RD7.62MM4B/1TBTD	551	0	0	1,924	8,022	539	4,809	922	1,968	1,864	815
RD7.62MM1B/1TBTD	790	3,275	5,893	2,865	2,016	2,604	2	1,006	1	2,560	7,277
RD 8.59MM BALL CTN L1 (OR 0.338IN LAPUA BALL)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
RD9MMBALLCTNL18	24	13	83	788	311	47	842	371	0	1,224	15
RKT H/F ILLUM PARA L5	74	58	5	6	246	0	0	0	0	0	0
RKT H/F PARA ILLUM L12	224	191	247	485	342	722	412	258	132	138	158
SIG KIT 16MM PYRO PISTOL WHITE	14	0	0	3	8	78	9	12	0	16	12
SIG KIT 16MM PYRO PISTOL GREEN	7	0	0	3	9	3	0	0	1	0	1
SIG KIT 16MM PYRO PISTOL RED	4	1	1	4	9	4	1	4	1	2	5
FLARE TRIPWIRE KIT L10A1	23	84	7	24	53	18	0	0	51	16	23
GREN HD SIG SMK GREEN L68	35	0	2	2	26	6	3	14	3	11	14
GREN HD SIG SMK ORANGE L69	6	3	4	2	20	5	0	8	0	23	13
GREN HD SIG SMK RED L70	17	9	7	14	65	61	2	33	22	21	40
GREN HD SIG SMK BLUE L71	0	0	5	2	19	9	7	7	20	1	93
GREN HD SIG SMK PURPLE L101	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	3	4
RD 40X 46MM HEDP	11	16	31	6	36	27	2	3	9	20	20
RD 40 X 46 MM HE FRAG GREN	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	0	0
GREN HAND HE L1 09	1	2	5	1	26	2	0	0	1	2	2
MOR BOMB 51 MM ILLUM L16	35	4	38	40	11	86	60	0	29	21	3
MOR BOMB 81 MM ILLUM L39	655	234	672	485	209	453	64	60	96	268	0
MOR BOMB 81 MM HE L41	8	35	17	5	0	40	0	0	0	1	0
RD 30MM HE	0	16	69	1	10	22	0	6	24	66	22

	20 Armoured brigade						19 Light brigade				
Commodity	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug.*	*Sept.*	*Oct.*	*Nov.*	*Dec.*	*Jan.*	*Feb.*	*Mar.*
105MM HE FZD L1 16A1 W/CART NORM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	0
RD A-RIOT 1 .5IN BATON L5	0	0	153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RD A-RIOT 37MM BATON L21	206	36	10	34	144	64	4	112	0	17	24
GRENHDDISTXL108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0
GREN DSCHGR ANTI RIOT CS L96	0	0	6	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

Armed Forces: Apprentices

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many apprentices were recruited into the Defence and Communication Services Agency technical apprenticeship scheme at *(a)* HMS Collingwood, *(b)* RAF Henlow and *(c)* Highbury College, Portsmouth in each year since 2003; what estimate he has made of the number of apprentices to be recruited in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [137712]

Derek Twigg: The D E and S Information Systems and Services—formerly the Defence Communications Services Agency—ceased to recruit new apprentices at RAF Henlow and Highbury College in 2002. Since 2003, 16 Apprentices have been recruited each year for the scheme run at HMS Collingwood. Based on the estimated requirements of the D E and S Information Systems and Services, it is planned to recruit 12 new apprentices in 2007.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1848W, on armed forces: cadets, when short service limited commissions were first introduced; and how many were granted since their introduction. [137346]

Derek Twigg: Records which would indicate when short service limited commissions were first introduced have not been retained, although this is believed to be roughly 30-40 years ago.

The number of untrained officers who joined the Army on short service limited commissions between 1 April 1986, the earliest date for which information is available, and 31 March 2000, when these commissions were discontinued, is as follows:

Date of flow	*Number*
1986-87	30
1987-88	20
1988-89	10
1989-90	10
1990-91	50
1991-92	30
1992-93	20
1993-94	20
1994-95	50
1995-96	50
1996-97	20
1997-98	100
1998-99	50
1999-2000	80

Armed Forces: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength is of *(a)* Army Cadets, *(b)* Air Cadets and *(c)* Sea Cadets in Chorley. [136961]

Derek Twigg: As at 11 May 2007 the strength of the Sea Cadets was:

	Number
Cadets 12 years and over	42
Junior Cadets 10-12 years	2
Adults	14

The strength of the Army Cadets was:

	Number
Cadets	69
Adults	5

The Strength of the Air Cadets was:

	Number
Air Cadets	45
Adults	11

Armed Forces: Coroners

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the steps the Government are taking to reduce the backlog of military inquests for the fatalities of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. [137772]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 381, to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander).

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are located outside the United Kingdom. [137079]

Derek Twigg: Location statistics may be compiled based on posted (stationed) location or deployed location. Posted (stationed) location is where an individual is permanently based. Deployed location is

where an individual is physically located on operations at a particular point in time and is typically used for short tours of duty.

As at 30 April 2007, 15,220 personnel were deployed on operations outside the UK.

The strength of UK regular forces posted outside the UK is available in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 6—Global Location of UK Regular Forces. However, due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system, TSP6 RAF location data for 1 April 2006 are provisional and subject to review, and after 1 April 2006 are not available. TSP6 naval service location data are not available after 1 October 2006.

Copies of TSP 6 are available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Officers

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions the *(a)* Commander in Chief Land, *(b)* General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, *(c)* Adjutant General and *(d)* Chief of General Staff met journalists in the last 12 months. [135296]

Derek Twigg: In the period 27 April 2006 to 27 April 2007 neither the Commander in Chief Land nor the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland had any formal meetings with journalists. In the same period the Chief of the General Staff and his predecessor met with journalists on nine occasions, as did the Adjutant-General. The breakdown for these meetings is as shown:

Chief of the General Staff

15-18 May 2006—Richard Norton-Taylor, Stryker McGuire, William Shawcross and Sarah Sands—Iraq visit.

25-28 June 2006—Robert Fox, Sarah Sands and Con Coughlin—Armed Forces Germany visit.

1-4 September 2006—Sir Max Hastings and Ron Moreau—Armed Forces Germany visit.

5 September 2006—Defence Journalists Reception—Cavalry and Guards Club.

6 October 2006—Final Parade and Review in Belfast for Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment—tribute interviews—various.

10 October 2006—Interview with Sarah Sands.

11 October 2006—Interview with Patience Wheatcroft.

8 December 2006—Izzy Barnard (British Forces Broadcasting Service) and Mark Page (Garrison Radio).

13 March 2007—BBC—statement regarding medical care to Armed forces personnel.

Adjutant-General

10 May 2006—Sir Max Hastings.

19 June 2006—John Elliot - (Editor Soldier Magazine)—Blake Report Interview.

11 July 2006—Interview with Andy Simms—(Deputy Editor Soldier Magazine).

17 October 2006—Sir Max Hastings.

4 December 2006—Josette Lessor—(Garrison Radio)—Christmas message.

8 December 2006—Rob Watson—Ditchley Foundation.

3 January 2007—BBC News—Defence Estate issues.

5 January 2007—Max Hastings—SSAFA event.

7 March 2007—Kate Adie.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the rate of pay of *(a)* armed forces personnel and *(b)* those beginning a career in the armed forces. [137776]

Des Browne: Pay rates for UK service personnel are recommended by the independent Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB), which reports annually to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence. The AFPRB bases its recommendations on broad comparability with the pay of civilian occupations of similar job weight and responsibility within the UK.

I announced in my written ministerial statement on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 106WS, the Government's acceptance in full of the recommendations contained in the 2007 AFPRB report and these took effect from 1 April 2007. The key recommendations were an increase in the basic military salary for officers and all other ranks of 3.3 per cent. and a targeted restructuring of pay range 1, which resulted in overall increases of between 6.2 per cent. and 9.4 per cent. for about 19,000 of the most junior trained service personnel on the lowest pay levels.

Copies of the 2007 AFPRB report are available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pension payments due for payment in April 2007 were *(a)* made and *(b)* not made by Joint Personnel Administration. [136154]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* 357,505 pension payments were made in April 2007.

1,274 were new pension awards made, using data from the Compensation and Pension system that interfaces with the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system, in order to obtain data required for pension calculation and payment.

Ongoing pension payments do not involve the JPA system.

62 cases remain outstanding because information and/or application forms are awaited from units or individuals, in order for their pension entitlements to be calculated and paid. Wherever it is possible the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency assist and hasten units and individuals to ensure the necessary information is supplied in order to make payment.

Army: Conferences

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which budget the cost of the Chief of the General Staff's attendance at the North East Economic forum was met; and how the Chief of the General Staff travelled to the event. [137134]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The Chief of the General Staff attended the North East Economic Forum as a guest speaker. His travel arrangements for the day are shown as follows. All transport was provided by Ministry of Defence assets

and the associated costs were absorbed by the relevant budgetary areas. The visit gave rise to no external costs.

From	*To*	*Method of Transport*	*Budget*
Somerset	Minley	Helicopter	32 Squadron RAF
Minley	RAF Northolt	Helicopter	32 Squadron RAF
RAF Northolt	Teesside airport	Plane	32 Squadron RAF
Teesside airport	Forum Venue, Durham	Car and Driver	HQ London District
Forum Venue, Durham	Teesside airport	Car and Driver	HQ London District
Teesside airport	RAF Northolt	Plane	32 Squadron RAF
RAF Northolt	Home	Car and Driver	CGS Household

Ballistic Missile Defence: USA

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1115W, on ballistic missile defence: USA, what legal advice he has received on the compatibility of the upgrading of RAF Fylingdales in support of the USA Ballistic Missile Defence System with the UK's obligations under the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, Article 1. [138157]

Des Browne: The UK had no obligations under the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty which was a bilateral treaty between the United States and the USSR.

Defence and Communications Services Agency

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1461W, on the Defence and Communications Services Agency, for what reasons the schemes that trained in a commercial environment through civilian technical colleges were transferred to HMS Collingwood; and if he will make a statement. [137787]

Derek Twigg: In 2002, a review of DCSA Apprentice Training recommended the letting of a single out-sourced contract to replace the existing schemes based at the DCSA Training Centre Henlow and Bedford College (part in-house, part contracted out) and at Highbury College Portsmouth (contracted out). An Investment Appraisal concluded that a single outsourced model offered the Agency more flexibility to determine the size of future apprentice intake and also offered long term financial savings. Following Management Board approval, my endorsement of the proposal in December 2002, and TU Consultation, an Invitation To Tender (ITT) was, therefore, issued. Flagship Training, based at HMS Collingwood won the competition.

Food Supply: Security

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how responsibilities for strategic contingency planning for food security are distributed between his Department and other Departments. [137429]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is the designated lead Government Department for contingency planning for disruptions to the food supply chain. The Food Standards Agency is responsible for contingency planning for food contamination.

Gibraltar Regiment: Pay

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in pay negotiations with the Gibraltar Regiment; and if he will make a statement. [137642]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* Pay rates for the Royal Gibraltar Regiment are adjusted annually by the Ministry of Defence in accordance with the increases recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB). The 2007 AFPRB report was published on 1 March. The AFPRB recommended an increase in basic pay of 3.3 per cent. for all ranks and a targeted restructuring of Pay Range 1 which resulted in a total pay increase of 9.4 per cent. for the most junior trained service personnel. The Government accepted the AFPRB's recommendations in full and these were implemented from 1 April 2007.

The AFPRB will publish their recommendations on service pay for 2008—including the pay of Royal Gibraltar Regiment personnel—early next year.

HMS Cornwall: Mass Media

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which media organisations had personnel on board HMS Cornwall on *(a)* 23 March 2007 and *(b)* each of the five days preceding; [137385]

(2) if he will list the media interviews undertaken on board HMS Cornwall on 23 March 2007; at what time each interview was undertaken; and who *(a)* conducted and *(b)* was the subject of each; [137386]

(3) which television crews were taken out on board HMS Cornwall's Lynx helicopter on 23 March 2007; and whether his Department holds camera footage taken by these crews on that day. [137387]

Des Browne: *The Independent* and the BBC had personnel on board HMS Cornwall from 22 to 24 March 2007.

At approximately 1015 hours GMT on 23 March 2007 Ian Parnell from the BBC interviewed Commodore Nick Lambert (Commander Task Force 158) on board HMS Cornwall. The subject was the detention of the two sea boat crews.

No TV crews were on HMS Cornwall's Lynx helicopter on 23 March 2007.

Iran: Territorial Waters

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will place in the Library an appropriately redacted copy of the report of the Board of Inquiry into the 2004 seizure by Iran of United Kingdom service personnel and equipment; [133819]

(2) who the members were of the Board of Inquiry into the 2004 Iranian seizure of UK personnel; and on what date it reported. [133821]

Des Browne *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* A comprehensive in-theatre Learning Account (investigation) was conducted and a Board of Inquiry was therefore not considered necessary. I am withholding the Learning Account as publication would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Iraq

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK Government have entered into any written agreements with *(a)* US authorities and *(b)* Iraqi authorities on the conditions on which individuals arrested and detained by UK armed forces in Iraq may be transferred to (i) US authorities and (ii) Iraqi authorities; and if he will place copies of any such agreements in the Library. [109281]

Des Browne *[holding answer 18 December 2006]:* The Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Governments of the United States and Australia governing the transfer, in accordance with the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions of prisoners of war, of civilian internees and detainees taken during operations against Iraq in 2003. This MOU is no longer in use.

The UK contingent of the Multinational Force in Iraq signed a MOU with the Iraqi Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior in 2004, that governs the transfer of individuals in the custody of UK forces in Iraq to the Iraqi criminal justice system. We will make public the text of this MOU subject to obtaining the consent of the Iraqi Government as the co-signatory. I will write to the right hon. Member to inform him of their decision and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unmanned aerial vehicles, including balloons, have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* damaged beyond repair while working for British Operations in Iraq. [134197]

Des Browne: Since 2003, three balloons and 33 unmanned aerial vehicles have been lost in Iraq. 38 unmanned aerial vehicles have been damaged beyond repair over the same period.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Iraq for UK armed forces. [137785]

Des Browne: The security situation in Iraq varies from province to province. In Multi-National Division (South East) (MND(SE)), where the majority of UK forces operate, Basra still suffers from violence, mainly between Shia groups seeking political or economic advantage, although many attacks are aimed at coalition forces. Responsibility for security in the other three provinces in MND(SE) has been transferred to the Iraqi authorities, reflecting their generally positive security situations, along with maturing political institutions and the growing capacity of the Iraqi security forces.

Military Bases: Cyprus

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the development of facilities in Cyprus to support the air bridge for service personnel travelling to and from operational theatres; and if he will make a statement. [136037]

Mr. Ingram: Significant progress has been made to develop facilities in Cyprus, specifically at RAF Akrotiri, to support the operational air bridge.

The air terminal at Akrotiri has been the focus of development activity with a number of improvements. To improve communication, we have installed five military network telephones, 10 free-to-user mobile phones to be used in the event of delay, and two free-to-user internet terminals. In addition, we have a WiFi installation and two public network pay phones with an additional six on order.

On the welfare side, operational passengers are offered free tea, coffee and a light snack in addition to the NAAFI shop in the terminal. There are also three wide screen TVs (two satellite and one DVD player) for entertainment and, in the unusual event of a prolonged delay, passengers will be taken to the station cinema and transported to messes for hot meals.

In the longer term, there are plans to refurbish the terminal. In the interim, a semi-permanent holding facility, separate and adjacent to the main terminal, is being developed.

Nuclear Weapons: Transport

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors were taken into account in deciding on the timing of the movement of nuclear warheads from AWE Aldermaston to Scotland on 10 and 11 May. [138181]

Des Browne: I am withholding information on individual movements of Defence nuclear material as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

Rendition

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates since 1 July 2006 the aircraft with the registration HZ-124 has landed at RAF Brize Norton; on what basis this aircraft is allowed to use RAF Brize Norton; and what fees have been paid to his Department by the owners of the aircraft HZ-124 for the use of RAF Brize Norton since 1 July 2006. [137511]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* Since 1 July 2006, aircraft HZ-124 has landed 14 times at RAF Brize Norton. The aircraft operated in accordance with the MOD regulations for civil aircraft use of military airfields. The regulations also cover the applicability and level of landing, housing, parking and insurance administration charges. The regulations have been adhered to for each flight.

RFA Orange

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress with the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry into the loss of SGIA Mark Petre (UK104390) and LH(CK) Keith Rice (UK 110745) from RFA Orange. [135452]

Mr. Ingram: The Board of Inquiry into this tragic incident made seven recommendations:

The accommodation ladder should be raised following the last liberty boat run;

The inherent dangers of a man over board incident should remain the subject of education and safety awareness;

Flotilla guidance on the control, inspection and validation of bar stock and keys should be published;

The RFA drug and alcohol policy and rules controlling ships' bars should recognise cases of ships at anchor;

Command teams should make arrangements as they feel necessary to provide additional supervision when large numbers of crew members have been consuming alcohol ashore;

Royal Fleet Auxiliary Human Resources and Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre should meet to establish whether or not casualty and kinforming procedures should be integrated or inter related;

Incident narratives should be kept as a matter of routine to aid investigations.

All these recommendations have now been adopted.

Territorial Army: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many deployments have been made of Territorial Army personnel based in Chorley; what role they have played in serving overseas; and if he will make a statement. [137643]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* There are two Territorial Army (TA) detachments based at Chorley TA centre. The detachment of 29 Military Intelligence Company, 3 Military Intelligence Battalion (V) has deployed 16 TA personnel on operations since 2003, in a military intelligence role. The detachment of 5(General Support) Medical Regiment has deployed 20 personnel on operations since 2003, in a medical support role.

Trident: Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what requests he has received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the release of advice provided to him on the legality of replacing Trident. [138048]

Des Browne: The Department has received no requests under the Freedom of Information Act for the release of legal advice pertaining to the maintenance of the nuclear deterrent beyond the planned life of the existing Trident system.

Written Questions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will answer question 123013, on external consultants, tabled by the hon. Member for Fareham on 20 February 2007. [138159]

Mr. Ingram: I replied to the hon. Member on 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 989W.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Investment Policy

26. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners, what steps the Church Commissioners are taking to ensure the best possible return on their investment portfolio. [137954]

Sir Stuart Bell: In order to achieve the best possible total return—within acceptable levels of risk and in line with our ethical investment policy—we maintain a well diversified investment portfolio and regularly review asset allocation. Our fund's performance was in the top 2 per cent. of UK pension funds over the last 10 years according to independent performance measurement statistics.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Education Service

Ben Chapman: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, if he will take steps to increase the take-up by schools and other educational institutions outside London and the South East of opportunities to visit Parliament and use facilities offered by the Parliamentary Education Service. [138322]

Nick Harvey: The Administration Committee recommended in its recent report, Improving Facilities for Educational Visitors to Parliament[1], that the House of Commons Commission, working closely with the appropriate bodies in the House of Lords, should consider the case for subsidising school visits to Westminster from more remote constituencies. The Group on Information for the Public will be presenting proposals for consideration by the Commission later in the year.

The Parliamentary Education Service is currently expanding its educational visits programme to offer more places to schools throughout the year and can also provide, on request, educational sessions for young people visiting Parliament in Members' groups. In addition, the Education Service is developing services aimed at schools that are unable to visit Westminster, for whatever reason, including a range of educational publications, teaching resources, films and a dedicated website. The two outreach officers, appointed in September 2005, have so far visited 50 local education authorities and provided training sessions for over 300 teachers and educational sessions for over 1,000 young people away from Westminster.

[1] HC 434 2006-07.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Driving Offences

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people originating from outside the UK charged with offences in the last 12 months were also charged *(a)* with driving without a valid British driving licence and *(b)* with having no British driving licence. [134668]

Mr. Coaker: Driving without a valid licence is an offence under s.87(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988. Failure to possess a licence is not an offence.

Information is not collected centrally on the number of people charged. The Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform identifies proceedings under s.87(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988. Information on the UK or foreign origin of those proceeded against is not collected.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions for drink-driving resulted in custodial sentences in each year since 1997, broken down by police authority. [134677]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested on arrests is not available centrally.

Information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on convictions and custodial sentences for drink-driving offences by police force area 1997 to 2004 (latest available) is given in the following tables.

Data for 2005 will be available shortly.

Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs by police force area, 1997 to 2004

Number of offences

	1997		1998		1999		2000	
Police force area	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
Avon and Somerset	2,812	163	2,566	157	2,728	165	2,462	152
Bedfordshire	1,146	119	1,060	96	869	87	797	89
Cambridgeshire	1,092	56	1,060	62	941	43	793	41
Cheshire	1,969	97	1,903	119	1,827	133	1,652	122
Cleveland	926	61	870	63	811	57	777	56
Cumbria	931	49	856	51	871	37	806	50
Derbyshire	1,612	147	1,547	202	1,463	181	1,417	126
Devon and Cornwall	2,342	91	2,265	127	2,277	112	2,199	104
Dorset	1,214	93	1,186	88	1,120	96	1,115	84
Durham	1,044	66	1,035	53	1,137	81	1,124	76
Essex	2,736	228	2,438	233	2,528	261	2,462	237
Gloucestershire	1,067	48	985	36	889	51	804	37
Greater Manchester	4,806	440	4,715	453	4,850	464	4,801	428
Hampshire	3,774	243	3,597	231	3,725	213	3,472	244
Hertfordshire	1,670	90	1,672	91	1,679	90	1,552	98
Humberside	1,274	76	1,358	87	1,323	97	1,371	128
Kent	2,321	97	2,627	155	2,633	133	2,592	134
Lancashire	3,389	224	2,945	178	3,010	184	2,584	163
Leicestershire	1,648	183	1,485	140	1,624	188	1,531	152
Lincolnshire	1,088	47	979	36	941	44	816	48
London, City of	436	8	301	9	236	5	162	4
Merseyside	2,719	304	2,451	326	2,137	296	2,128	286
Met Police	16,165	1,270	13,889	1,050	12,414	838	11,801	891
Norfolk	1,116	49	1,118	43	1,010	64	935	45
Northamptonshire	1,107	109	1,062	73	1,058	91	782	90
Northumbria	2,625	184	2,457	194	2,463	229	2,621	215
North Yorkshire	1,365	77	1,205	77	1,124	60	1,073	67
Nottinghamshire	2,031	255	1,804	247	1,802	262	1,722	210
South Yorkshire	2,296	204	2,002	178	1,927	149	2,122	170
Staffordshire[2]	2,036	132	1,955	140	1,711	143	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	1,050	53	1,042	60	1,089	71	902	74
Surrey	1,380	64	1,328	58	1,417	47	1,539	61
Sussex	2,373	110	2,113	113	2,224	120	2,112	136
Thames Valley	4,070	215	3,896	195	3,725	216	3,496	212
Warwickshire	837	44	784	53	856	38	786	42
West Mercia	1,947	87	1,794	97	1,747	114	1,631	101
West Midlands	6,351	598	5,582	532	4,775	532	4,559	451
West Yorkshire	3,953	394	3,669	329	3,597	358	3,375	287

Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs by police force area, 1997 to 2004

Number of offences

	1997		1998		1999		2000	
Police force area	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
Wiltshire	1,043	27	1,108	39	1,009	45	930	28
England	93,761	6,802	86,709	6,471	83,567	6,395	79,671	6,076
Dyfed Powys	1,029	44	995	38	944	48	858	45
Gwent	1,166	61	1,203	84	1,079	78	1,211	99
North Wales	1,354	96	1,306	95	1,248	94	1,332	92
South Wales	2,892	257	2,903	239	2,526	282	2,757	255
Wales	6,441	458	6,407	456	5,797	502	6,158	491
England and Wales	100,202	7,260	93,116	6,927	89,364	6,897	85,829	6,567

Number of offences

	2001		2002		2003		2004	
Police force area	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
Avon and Somerset	2,197	129	2,401	124	2,666	167	2,692	145
Bedfordshire	914	79	955	82	1,072	72	1,028	65
Cambridgeshire	813	51	852	41	933	56	1,083	52
Cheshire	1,529	96	1,993	103	1,905	110	2,128	106
Cleveland	887	77	921	71	981	61	1,071	60
Cumbria	761	51	768	37	843	37	907	50
Derbyshire	1,411	140	1,465	164	1,617	168	1,874	143
Devon and Cornwall	2,369	128	2,441	95	2,667	121	2,560	120
Dorset	1,150	91	1,199	83	1,264	73	1,239	52
Durham	1,097	86	1,136	68	1,170	77	1,277	80
Essex	2,456	264	2,522	267	2,622	311	2,853	349
Gloucestershire	865	39	926	44	890	37	913	38
Greater Manchester	4,715	454	4,720	474	4,743	437	4,811	379
Hampshire	3,464	235	3,846	243	3,663	234	3,743	199
Hertfordshire	1,666	94	1,894	90	1,904	78	1,881	94
Humberside	1,259	126	1,395	113	1,445	150	1,623	112
Kent	2,575	165	2,745	152	2,811	179	3,010	155
Lancashire	2,304	148	2,599	159	2,652	146	2,706	125
Leicestershire	1,546	140	1,659	140	1,725	143	1,754	145
Lincolnshire	877	60	847	56	1,111	42	1,209	46
London, City of	162	10	221	12	230	4	169	5
Merseyside	2,195	217	2,293	216	2,687	215	2,849	261
Met Police	11,260	928	12,905	927	12,621	922	13,227	832
Norfolk	1,143	75	1,220	55	1,274	59	1,240	64
Northamptonshire	399	65	236	35	799	65	922	73
Northumbria	2,529	217	2,588	188	2,747	187	2,675	183
North Yorkshire	1,066	55	1,119	63	1,194	51	1,131	40
Nottinghamshire	1,598	187	1,420	129	1,644	149	1,669	111
South Yorkshire	2,020	159	1,945	165	2,089	125	2,224	140
Staffordshire[2]	1,513	136	1,704	143	1,733	141	1,733	124
Suffolk	920	43	1,105	79	1,213	66	1,332	89
Surrey	1,592	65	1,614	68	1,464	44	1,425	51
Sussex	2,358	128	2,306	149	2,430	120	2,368	104
Thames Valley	3,275	210	4,317	219	3,884	159	3,539	190
Warwickshire	880	33	841	40	918	33	845	23
West Mercia	1,740	91	1,719	93	1,797	100	1,689	103
West Midlands	4,914	471	5,050	438	5,233	420	5,584	423
West Yorkshire	3,220	331	3,564	268	3,720	260	3,897	276
Wiltshire	1,045	53	1,005	54	1,031	62	1,024	39
England	78,684	6,127	84,456	5,947	87,392	5,881	89,904	5,646
Dyfed Powys	867	36	927	47	995	46	986	47
Gwent	1,152	76	1,074	74	1,149	94	1,188	69

Number of offences

Police force area	2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Findings of guilt	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
North Wales	1,227	87	1,270	71	1,326	76	1,349	75
South Wales	2,812	295	2,761	236	2,840	211	2,811	222
Wales	6,058	494	6,032	428	6,310	427	6,334	413
England and Wales	84,742	6,621	90,488	6,375	93,702	6,308	96,238	6,059

n/a = not available

[1] Immediate custody includes sentences of secure training order, detention and training order, young offender institution and unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.

[2] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Drug Seizures

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what total amount of *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* crack cocaine, *(d)* heroin and *(e)* ecstasy was seized in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police force area; [137163]

(2) how many grammes of illegal drugs were detected by *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police dogs in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of the total drug seizures for each year each of those figures constituted. [137164]

Mr. Coaker: Latest drug seizures data for England and Wales relate to the calendar year 2004 and are published on the Home Office RDS website. The requested data for each year between 1995 and 2004, broken down by police force area, are provided in the tables. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Information about how, and by whom, drugs are detected is not collected centrally.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, police forces and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Fingerprints: Fraud

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of whether individuals whose fingertips have been smoothed through manual labour could potentially have their identities forged more easily. [134398]

Joan Ryan: Damage to fingerprints may lead to poorer quality biometric records being registered in some cases, although this is dependent on the equipment and recording process deployed. The fingerprints of those working in certain kinds of manual labour could be subject to such damage.

However, there is no evidence that people with damaged fingerprints are more susceptible to impersonation. Where a difficulty is experienced in conducting a biometric match against previously enrolled biometrics, second line processes would be in place to deal with such circumstances as appropriate to that particular situation.

Human Trafficking: North Eastern Region

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the extent of human trafficking in the north-east of England; and if he will make a statement. [135677]

Mr. Coaker: While there are no firm figures given a regional breakdown of the problem, emerging findings from a Home Office research paper due to be published later this year estimates, that at any one time in 2003 there were in the region of 4,000 female victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre in conjunction with the Serious Organised Crime Agency are working to improve intelligence collection across the UK on human trafficking. However the nature of the crime makes it difficult to make an accurate assessment of the extent of the problem in different areas.

Identity Cards

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how those liable for civil penalties under section 31 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 will be identified. [134399]

Joan Ryan: Any civil penalties will be determined in accordance with sections 31 to 34 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 and, in particular, the code of practice on penalties. This code will be published before the commencement of the national identity scheme and will set out the matters that must be considered when determining whether a civil penalty should be imposed and, if so, the amount of the penalty.

Precise details of how those liable for civil penalties will be identified are yet to be determined.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the publication of his Department's six-monthly report to Parliament on the costs of the identity cards scheme has been delayed. [136992]

Joan Ryan: I regret that the latest report on the estimated costs of the identity cards scheme was not published six months after publication of the first report as not all the contents could be finalised in time. However, it was published some four weeks after the due date, on 10 May 2007, by way of a written ministerial statement, and this short delay must be seen in the light of the 10 year period covered by the report.

Offensive Weapons: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of knife crime involving under-18 year olds were recorded in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [138409]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences which are knife related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

Figures are collected for homicides involving the use of sharp instruments but they do not separately identify knife-related offences. As from April 2007, police forces will provide data on offences of serious violence involving knives.

Passports

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a person who meets the criteria to countersign passport applications is still eligible to countersign while on maternity leave. [138280]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* A countersignatory for a passport application must be a professional person, or a person of standing in the community, who holds a current British or Irish passport. This is not affected by maternity leave, but it remains essential that a person who countersigns a passport application must be contactable by the Identity and Passport Service.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances difficulty in contacting a countersignatory who otherwise meets acceptable countersignatory criteria can constitute grounds for rejection of a passport application. [138281]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* The purpose of having passport applications countersigned by responsible persons is to enable the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) to confirm the identities of applicants. The work of the IPS includes contacting countersignatories for their confirmation that they signed an application in the identity shown on the form received by IPS. This is an essential safeguard against forgery of countersignatory details and other methods of identity fraud. If an application is countersigned by a person who the IPS cannot contact, the applicant may be asked to make a fresh application.

Police: Freemasonry

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces keep a register of declarations of freemasonry membership; and whether such declarations are required by *(a)* police officers, *(b)* prison officers, *(c)* probation officers and *(d)* other staff on appointment. [133307]

Mr. McNulty: Voluntary arrangements for the declaration of freemasonry membership were established for the police service in 1999. There is no statutory basis for the registers which are held internally by forces. We do not monitor centrally which forces continue to administer such registers. All recruits to the prison service are required, after the selection decision and before appointment is confirmed, to declare whether they belong to the freemasons. There is no national policy requiring probation officers to declare freemasonry membership.

Police: Interpreters

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of interpreters employed by the police in the last period for which figures are available were sourced from the recommended register of the National Register of Public Service Interpreters. [138287]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for the Chief Officer and the Police Authority.

Police: Road Traffic

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were engaged as dedicated officers for policing roads and vehicles in *(a)* May 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available; and what his policy is on the provision of such officers. [137877]

Mr. Coaker: The number of police officers dedicated to the policing of the roads and vehicles are not collected centrally. The available data are the number of full time equivalent (FTE) police officers primarily employed in the function "traffic".

Data are not available for May 1997, but are given for financial year (as at the last day of the year, 31 March). Data for 31 March 1997 and 31 March 1998 are unavailable.

As at 31 March	*Officers*
1996	8,084
2006	6,511

Note:
All figures are FTE rounded to the nearest whole number

As per the provision of such officers; the deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.

Police: Training

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost is of training *(a)* a police officer, *(b)* a community support officer and *(c)* a special constable. [137165]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 903W.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 483-84W, on prisoners: foreigners, what the cost to the public purse was of imprisoning *(a)* non-British EU national prisoners and *(b)* non-EU foreign national prisoners in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [136548]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Cost data are not collated by nationality. Foreign national prisoners are spread across the estate. They are not managed as a separate group. The average cost of a prison place at Prison Service establishments in England and Wales was £32,888 and for the private contractual prison estate was £32,418 in 2005-06; these figures would apply equally to prisoners whether British or foreign national.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to introduce the Commencement Order to bring into effect the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [138472]

Mr. Coaker: There is as yet no fixed date for the implementation of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006. Officials are working on commencement and associated regulations and it is hoped that implementation will be in the summer of this year.

Theft: Mobile Phones

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of mobile phone theft; [136441]

(2) what discussions he has had with mobile phone operators on reducing mobile phone theft. [136442]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 May 2007]:* Mobile phone theft is a key driver for robbery. The Government, police and industry have developed a strong partnership which has been working together to tackle escalating mobile phone theft. The Mobile Phone Crime Reduction Charter was launched by industry leaders in July 2006 and successfully achieved its target of blocking stolen handsets within 48 hours, meaning they will no longer work in the UK. The Government and Metropolitan police fund a National Mobile Phone Crime Unit to provide a national centre of excellence and operational support around the country. We have robust legislation in place to target criminals who re-programme stolen handsets.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Assessments: Fees and Charges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to publish its research into the fee level charged for GCSEs and A-levels; and what steps *(a)* the QCA and *(b)* his Department plans to take in response to this research. [136728]

Jim Knight: It is for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to decide whether it would be appropriate or lawful to publish any of the sources of evidence used in its review of fees. The Department and the QCA are considering what action to take in light of the review, and will announce next steps later in the year.

City Academies

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) which contracts have been placed by city academies with companies in which their sponsors have a financial interest; [127135]

(2) what restrictions apply to commercial involvement by city academies in companies with which their sponsors have a financial interest; [127136]

(3) what rules apply to the letting of contracts by city academies to companies in which their sponsors had an interest; [127137]

(4) what rules relate to declarations of interest in the tendering for contracts by city academies; [127138]

(5) how many requests he has received to waive rules on tendering contracts by city academies; and how many have been accepted; [127139]

(6) what rules govern the letting of contracts by city academies. [127140]

Jim Knight: Academies are charitable companies limited by guarantee, and are subject to the same regulatory framework as applies to all such organisations and to company law generally. The governors of an academy are also its charitable trustees.

The Charity Commission approves the governing documents of all companies proposed to be registered as charities prior to granting registration, to ensure that any provisions conferring authority on the charity to make a payment to one of the governors—or a company associated with a governor—deal with potential conflicts of interest in a transparent manner.

All academy trusts use the Department's model memorandum and articles of association as a basis for their own, and these include standard conflict of interest provisions recommended by the Charity Commission. These typically require any governor/trustee of the company, who has an interest in a particular contract, to withdraw from discussions and voting in relation to such a contract. In order to comply with these provisions, a sponsor of an academy trust or a sponsor-appointee with an interest in a sponsor company would, for example, be required to withdraw from any meetings at which a discussion took place on

the proposed remuneration of either themselves, or a company with which they are associated.

Furthermore, charity and company law place an obligation on charitable trustees and governors of academy companies to act at all times in the best interests of the company, and allowing the academy company to contract with another company in the knowledge that this might not be on the best terms available, would obviously be contrary to this obligation.

In addition, the general requirements relating to the procurement of goods and services are set out in the Academies Financial Handbook, which the Department issues to all academies. This includes the requirement for probity in procurement, to demonstrate that all parties are dealt with on a fair and equitable basis and to ensure that there is no private gain In particular, the Financial Handbook requires governors, including sponsor governors, to make formal declarations of their interests in external businesses and to withdraw from any discussions regarding potential contracting with that business.

In addition to any advice—or indeed directions—which the Department may give to academy trusts in relation to the procurement of goods and services, the law also precludes the payment of any charitable trustee unless and to the extent that legal authority for that payment is given in the charity's governing documents, or otherwise granted by a court or the Charity Commission.

Advice and guidance is also provided through the designated Project Lead within the Department and academies must also comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2006.

The Department cannot waive rules relating to the letting of contracts by academies, and does not keep a record of contracts that each academy enters into. However, academies are obliged by law to lodge their accounts with the Charity Commission and Companies House each year and these records are open to public scrutiny.

Connexions Service

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of people receiving advice from the Connexions service was identified as needing intensive support in each year since the service was established. [138135]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the number of occasions that young people have received advice since April 2003 when the Connexions service became fully operational across England. Young people may have received assistance on more than one occasion.

	Total interventions	*Interventions with those needing intensive support*	*Percentage*
2003-04	3,655,579	1,080,721	30
2004-05	3,907,592	1,121,296	29
2005-06	4,263,594	1,127,724	26
2006-07	5,222,982	1,167,032	22

Interventions are contacts of an individual nature with young people. They include face-to-face contact, telephone contact, e-mail and text messages and also contact with parents. They exclude bulk mail shots and publicity information.

Cumbria Education Authority: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the education budget was for Cumbria local education authority in financial year *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2006-07. [136267]

Jim Knight: In 2006-07 Cumbria local authority received a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation of £246.4 million and revenue grants of £62.5 million—a total of £308.9 million to fund the education of nursery, primary and secondary school aged pupils. 1996-97 figures are not available on a comparable basis.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project; [137832]

(2) what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years; [137833]

(3) what value of annual private finance initiative payments by his Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project; [137834]

(4) what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments were *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137835]

Jim Knight: No PFI projects sit on the Department's balance sheet or have done in the past.

The Department for Education and Skills does not make PFI payments. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) make payments to local authorities to assist them in paying their annual PFI payments for schools projects. CLG does not pay the annual PFI payments themselves.

All payments made under PFI are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

The Department does not hold information on capital repayments or other parts of a PFI contract. CLG makes the payments to local authorities, which in turn have contracts with the private sector provider.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what methods his Department uses for the monitoring of educational attainment; and what assessment he has made of trends in levels of educational attainment in the north east of England. [135651]

Jim Knight: The Department makes use of various methods for monitoring educational performance. Ofsted inspections, national curriculum tests and public examinations provide a framework for national and local analysis of performance against critical learning milestones. They provide measures which allow us to track changes in performance over time nationally, locally and at school level, to compare the progress of children in different schools, and to compare the performance of different groups of pupils. At local level, the National Strategies and Government Offices provide ongoing monitoring and challenge of the performance of local authorities and schools as a basis for supporting them to improve.

All these methods have contributed to the improvement in standards that we have seen over the last nine years.

Since 1997, standards in education achievement from early years to post 16 in (a) Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend constituency and (b) North East region have improved broadly in line with national levels of attainment. A summary of the 1997 outcomes (where available) compared to 2006 is set out in the following table.

	Newcastle upon Tyne East Wallsend			*North East Region*			*National*		
	1997	*1998*	*2006*	*1997*	*1998*	*2006*	*1997*	*1998*	*2006*
KS1 level 2+									
Reading	—	77	80	—	80 [2]	85	—	80	84
Writing	—	80	77	—	81	82	—	81	81
Mathematics	—	84	86	—	85	90	—	84	90
KS2 level 4+									
English	51	—	76	60	—	78	63	—	79
Mathematics	51	—	74	61	—	77	62	—	76
KS3 level 5+									
English	50	—	62	53	—	70	57	—	73
Mathematics	51	—	67	55	—	76	60	—	77
KS4 GCSE+equiv									
Percentage of 15-year-olds achieving 5+ A*-C grades	35.5		55	36.8		57.3	45.1		58.5

Notes:
1. Includes attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.
2. Key Stage 1—Figures for 2006 are based on provisional data, 1998 is based on final data.
3. Key Stages 2, 3 and 4—Figures for 2006 are based on revised data, 1997 is based on final data.

In 2004 we moved to using administrative data to measure level 2 attainment by age 19 (Level 2 is equivalent to five GCSEs at A*-C), so we cannot compare latest figures with 1997. The latest figures for the North East show 69.2 per cent. of people aged 19 in 2006 were qualified to at least level 2 compared to 64.4 per cent. of people aged 19 in 2004 (corresponding figures for England were 71.4 per cent. of people aged 19 in 2006 and 66.3 per cent. of people aged 19 in 2004).

Education: Irish Studies

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Irish studies centres there are in the UK; whether any more are planned; and if he will make a statement. [138574]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

Educational Attainment

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* maintained secondary schools and *(b)* independent secondary schools fell within each percentage point in terms of the proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who achieved five or more GCSEs at (i) A* to C, (ii) A* to C including English and mathematics, (iii) A* to C including English, mathematics and science, (iv) A* to C including English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language and (v) A* to A in 2006. [117650]

Jim Knight: The information requested for parts (i) to (iv) of this question has been placed in the House Library.

Part (v) of this question could not be answered, except at disproportionate cost.

The figures in the table refer to mainstream schools in 2006. Level 2 corresponds to pupils achieving 5 A*-C. This analysis is based on the revised 2006 KS4 data.

	Number of schools for each percentage category achieving standard							
	Level 2 threshold achievement		Level 2 threshold achievement including English and maths		Level 2 threshold achievement including English, maths and science		Level 2 threshold achievement including English, maths, science and a modern foreign language	
Percentage of pupils achieving standard	Maintained	Independent	Maintained	Independent	Maintained	Independent	Maintained	Independent
0	1	82	1	126	26	251	89	285
1	0	0	0	5	7	6	72	5
2	0	1	1	1	4	5	85	7
3	0	1	2	1	5	6	84	11
4	0	0	3	0	6	3	109	2
5	0	1	2	0	7	2	66	2
6	0	0	3	2	12	2	109	2
7	0	1	4	3	11	3	92	2
8	0	1	1	2	16	0	96	3
9	1	1	5	3	22	2	76	4
10	0	2	6	6	26	5	90	4
11	1	1	12	3	22	2	82	8
12	0	0	15	1	28	1	83	0
13	0	0	13	1	34	2	78	7
14	0	1	21	3	49	2	66	8
15	0	1	30	1	46	1	87	2
16	2	0	31	1	52	2	71	1
17	2	3	36	4	52	5	66	7
18	2	1	37	1	49	5	60	4
19	8	0	39	0	57	2	54	4
20	5	4	52	3	53	4	62	4
21	4	1	37	3	56	0	56	3
22	3	0	38	2	51	2	63	9
23	9	1	45	0	62	2	61	2
24	10	0	58	1	53	1	66	3
25	20	1	48	7	73	10	58	12
26	8	2	54	1	57	2	53	1
27	13	2	69	3	64	1	52	7
28	20	1	63	2	66	2	45	4
29	22	2	57	1	63	2	45	7
30	19	1	55	2	57	3	44	9
31	18	0	54	5	61	5	47	2
32	32	0	58	0	63	0	42	3
33	27	8	66	5	4	6	32	10
34	30	0	70	0	63	0	36	0
35	35	0	58	4	52	3	45	3
36	47	5	68	2	70	3	45	3
37	40	1	55	1	51	1	41	3
38	55	2	51	5	51	3	31	7
39	43	0	67	0	67	4	43	5
40	44	2	58	2	42	6	30	6
41	68	3	53	0	53	1	29	0
42	60	1	53	8	41	7	23	6
43	64	5	49	5	73	4	24	6
44	56	4	54	5	64	5	23	4
45	67	2	55	1	51	2	15	3
46	44	2	47	2	68	2	19	7
47	61	1	65	5	50	3	10	7
48	56	2	45	4	56	1	18	5
49	64	1	85	1	47	1	19	1
50	64	10	41	14	57	11	18	20
51	61	0	70	0	46	3	12	3
52	61	0	46	4	40	4	14	7
53	59	0	49	3	50	2	19	5
54	45	1	47	3	33	4	15	2

	Number of schools for each percentage category achieving standard							
	Level 2 threshold achievement		Level 2 threshold achievement including English and maths		Level 2 threshold achievement including English, maths and science		Level 2 threshold achievement including English, maths, science and a modern foreign language	
Percentage of pupils achieving standard	Maintained	Independent	Maintained	Independent	Maintained	Independent	Maintained	Independent
55	62	1	48	7	42	10	7	7
56	51	6	52	5	32	6	10	11
57	58	5	55	5	25	8	6	8
58	80	5	48	3	44	2	7	8
59	58	3	58	6	27	7	3	6
60	74	5	35	4	24	9	3	9
61	55	1	42	3	33	3	6	9
62	71	2	31	4	34	7	9	1
63	67	3	24	7	26	10	2	6
64	77	2	26	6	23	9	4	8
65	73	3	30	7	14	10	3	9
66	55	1	29	1	14	2	6	9
67	52	8	23	11	18	14	3	8
68	58	3	20	7	14	2	5	10
69	53	3	23	15	15	5	1	11
70	58	5	17	10	7	9	2	4
71	46	8	21	11	7	11	7	6
72	54	4	12	4	10	11	4	8
73	37	6	12	8	5	9	2	6
74	38	4	14	10	3	9	6	13
75	43	17	6	12	5	9	6	12
76	39	4	6	11	5	4	6	10
77	41	7	4	6	7	8	3	7
78	35	6	11	13	7	6	6	14
79	25	8	8	7	3	10	1	7
80	31	9	8	11	5	9	2	10
81	18	13	6	13	2	6	1	6
82	16	6	5	5	5	18	6	3
83	12	7	5	9	4	13	8	9
84	16	2	3	5	3	8	8	11
85	11	8	2	10	4	15	4	6
86	8	14	1	19	3	10	6	9
87	10	10	2	13	3	10	4	7
88	8	16	4	14	5	6	5	17
89	12	17	6	17	4	13	6	9
90	10	13	5	8	5	13	6	9
91	8	21	6	10	12	14	7	13
92	8	12	4	11	6	14	8	11
93	6	19	8	11	3	8	9	15
94	7	23	6	16	9	15	4	7
95	14	22	9	19	17	12	4	9
96	7	28	7	26	6	18	8	13
97	18	35	18	28	15	25	4	18
98	36	46	30	31	20	27	8	21
99	50	52	43	44	22	21	3	13
100	57	222	34	107	11	70	6	27

Foster Care

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of current levels of fee payments to foster carers; how many foster carers receive no fee payment; how many foster carers are dependent on state benefits; and if he will make a statement. [138111]

Mr. Dhanda: All foster carers receive an allowance which covers the full cost of caring for a child. In addition many foster carers receive a fee. The Fostering Network estimates that approximately 60 per cent. of foster carers receive a fee for their work.

All local authorities determine their own fee structures. Information about fee levels are not collected or monitored centrally.

Information regarding the number of foster carers in receipt of state benefits is not recorded centrally.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will take steps to set up a transformation fund for local authorities to enable them to make fee payments to foster carers; and if he will make a statement. [138112]

Mr. Dhanda: According to information providing by The Fostering Network, approximately 60 per cent. of foster carers are already paid a fee. It is for local authorities to determine their own fee structures. The factors which contribute to decisions about fee levels are complex but may, for example, include: the skills, training and experience of the carer; the needs of the child; and the carer's ability to take up paid employment.

Our future agenda for supporting foster carers will be set out in the forthcoming White Paper.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will include in the White Paper following Care Matters proposals for a registration scheme for foster carers; and if he will make a statement. [138114]

Mr. Dhanda: The forthcoming White Paper on children in care will set out the Government's proposals for delivery across services for children in care. It will follow on from the proposals published in the Care Matters Green Paper, including in relation to the registration of foster carers.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will include in the forthcoming White Paper following Care Matters provision for national standards for fee payments to foster carers; and if he will make a statement. [138116]

Mr. Dhanda: The forthcoming White Paper on children in care will set out the Government's proposals for delivery across services for children in care. It will follow on from the proposals published in the Care Matters Green Paper, including those in relation to support for foster carers.

GCSE: North East Region

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils achieved *(a)* at least five GCSE grades A* to C and *(b)* GCSE grades A* to C including English and mathematics in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) south Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [118232]

Jim Knight: The following [redacted] contain GCSE results for 15-year-olds in [redacted]tained schools, including special schools.

Jarrow

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Percentage gaining 5+ GCSEs A*-C	39	38	42	40	42	43	41	45	52	56
Number of 15 year old pupils	962	937	951	948	1056	1055	1060	1029	947	987
Number of 15 year olds gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	373	357	395	378	447	451	430	466	496	552

Jarrow

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Percentage gaining 5+ GCSEs A*-C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	40
Number of 15 year old pupils	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	947	987
Number of 15 year olds gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	334	398

South Tyneside

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Percentage gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C	36	37	40	39	39	42	44	45	52	56
Number of 15 year old pupils	1,873	1,820	1,826	1,839	2,020	2,142	2,054	2,020	1,934	1,997
Number of 15 year olds gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	668	672	728	723	789	903	894	912	997	1,110

South Tyneside

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Percentage gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	27	31	32	33	32	34	34	35	34	40
Number of 15 year old pupils	1,873	1,820	1,826	1,839	2,020	2,142	2,054	2,020	1,934	1,997
Number of 15year olds gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	511	561	591	607	653	733	696	701	662	791

North East

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Percentage 5+ GCSEs at A*-C	37	37	39	42	42	44	47	49	53	57
Number of 15 year old pupils	31,234	30,433	30,629	30,473	31,826	31,712	32,045	32,409	31,007	31,687
Number of 15 year olds gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	11,492	11,279	12,056	12,694	13,525	14,061	14,985	15,798	16,587	18,154

North East

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Percentage gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	28	28	31	33	34	35	35	36	38	40
Number of 15 year old pupils	31,234	30,433	30,629	30,473	31,826	31,712	32,045	32,409	31,007	31,687
Number of 15 year olds gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	8,758	8,642	9,433	10,026	10,684	11,030	11,125	11,584	11,787	12,779

England

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Percentage gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C	43	44	46	47	48	50	51	52	55	57
Number of 15 year old pupils	537,661	527,538	533,730	534,343	554,506	558,002	572,040	590,096	583,265	593,061
Number of 15 year olds gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	228,646	231,222	243,870	250,936	265,498	276,239	292,438	307,046	319,481	339,289

England

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Percentage gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	33	34	39	37	38	40	43	40	42	44
Number of 15 year old pupils	537,661	527,38	533,30	534,43	554,06	558,02	572,40	590,96	583,65	593,61
Number of 15 year olds gaming 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	174,990	179,493	191,800	199,147	211,245	220,463	225,963	238,463	247,512	260,608

[1] Revised data for 2006

The GCSE data for Jarrow corresponding to 5+ A*-C grades including Maths and English before 2005 could not be calculated, except at disproportionate cost.

International GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1379-81W, on GCSEs, which of the schools listed offer the International GCSE. [122061]

Jim Knight: The Department does not include the International GCSE within the Secondary School Achievement and Attainment Tables and so data on the pupils attempting or achieving the International GCSE are not held centrally.

Local Education Authorities: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance his Department provides to local education authorities on black and minority ethnic representation on independent appeals panels. [137727]

Jim Knight: The current Admission Appeals Code of Practice and relevant regulations do not give specific guidance on this issue. However, I agree that the issue should be addressed, and will ensure that guidance is included in the new Appeals Code, which we intend to bring into force in January 2008.

Medicine: Education

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* students and *(b)* undergraduates were studying (i) medicine, (ii) dentistry and (iii) subjects allied to medicine in each of the last five years, broken down by institution. [138128]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* The latest available information for the academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06 has been placed in the House Library. Comparable information for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Parents: Custody

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of how many children do not have contact with a non-resident parent as a result of a resident parent refusing to comply with a court order requiring the child to spend time with their non-resident parent. [137513]

Mr. Dhanda: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures are in place for monitoring how money designated for pupil referral units is spent; and what systems are in place to evaluate the effect of the expenditure. [132883]

Jim Knight: Pupil referral units come under the local authority accountability arrangements through the Audit Commission. The Department collects financial data from local authorities relating to pupil referral units covering schools standards grant, personalisation and devolved school meals grant through their annual budget statements, known as the Section 52 statements.

Local authorities should allocate resources to their pupil referral units in a planned, balanced and agreed manner and be able to demonstrate that these resources are being appropriately targeted on delivering improved outcomes. In assessing the leadership and management of a pupil referral unit, Ofsted inspectors make a judgment and report on how effectively and efficiently resources are deployed to achieve value for money.

Further, subject to regulations which will require the establishment of management committees for all pupil referral units from 1 November 2007, management committees may be involved in the management of funds made available to their pupil referral units, including the monitoring of expenditure and ensuring value for money.

Pupils: Languages

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether all schools are required to report to his Department the first language of all their pupils. [134302]

Jim Knight: The School Census collects first language information at pupil level from primary, secondary and all special schools, as well as academies and city technology colleges (CTCs), in accordance with section 537A of the Education Act 1996. Totals of all pupils recorded as having English as an additional language (EAL) are also collected from Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), in accordance with section 29 of the Education Act 1996 and section 42 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The requirement is for these schools to report the first language of all pupils of compulsory school age and above.

School Meals: Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on providing school meals for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in the last period for which figures are available. [135975]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect data that allows us to report expenditure on school meals alone.

Schools

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the 68 national support schools. [135828]

Jim Knight: A list of the 68 National Support Schools is available on the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) website:

www.ncsl.org.uk.

The schools are:

Alexandra Infant School, Beckenham
Archbishop Holgate's School, York
Baxter College, Kidderminster
Bishop Stopford School, Headlands
Blackwood School, Streetly
Bognor Regis Community College, Bognor Regis
Bourton Meadow, Buckingham
Brookside Community Primary School, Street
Caldecote Community Primary, Leicester
Caludon Castle School, Wyken
Carlton-Bolling College, Bradford
Chepping View Primary, High Wycombe
Colmore Infant School, Kings Heath
Colmore Junior, Kings Heath
Corsham Primary, Corsham
Darley Dale Primary, Matlock
East Barnet School
Edinburgh Primary, Walthamstow
Eggar's School, Alton
Fellside Community Primary School, Whickham
Garforth Community College, Garforth
Grange School, Kempston
Grangewood School, Pinner
Greensward College, Hockley
Greenwood Dale School, Nottingham
Haybridge High School and Sixth Form
Hayes Park School, Hayes
Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre, Emmer Green
Hillcrest School and Community College, Dudley
Houghton Kepier Sports College, Houghton le Spring
Huntington School, Huntington
Invicta Grammar, Maidstone
Kemnal Technology College, Sidcup
Ladybarn Primary, Withington
Lea Valley Primary, London
Lent Rise School, Burnham
Limbrick Wood Primary School, Coventry
Linwood, Bournemouth
Lordswood Girls' School, Harborne
Loughborough Primary
Malvin's Close First School, Blyth
Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney
Newark Orchard School
Ninestiles School, Acocks Green
Old Ford Primary, Bow
Oldway Primary School, Paignton
Outwood Grange College, Wakefield
Prince Henry's Grammar, Otley
Queen's Crescent School, Chippenham
Richmond Primary, Chadderton
Riverside Junior School, Hullbridge
Shaldon Primary
St. Anne's RC Primary, London
St. James R.C. Primary, Bromley
St. Luke's C of E (Voluntary Aided) School, Southsea
St. Peter's Catholic High School and Sixth Form Centre, Gloucester
St. Peter's Primary School, Wem
St. Saviour's and St. Olave's School, London

Steeton Primary School, Steeton
The Compton School, Finchley
The Hayesbrook School, Tonbridge, Kent
The Hayesbrook School, Tonbridge, Kent
Waddesdon Church of England School, Aylesbury
West Kirby Residential School, West Kirby
Westfield Technology College, Preston, Weymouth
Wildern School, Southampton
William Farr (CofE) Comprehensive School, Welton
Woodlands School, Basildon

Schools: Inspections

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many specialists in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* music, *(d)* languages, *(e)* history, *(f)* geography, *(h)* sciences, *(i)* social sciences and *(j)* physical education are employed by Ofsted to undertake school inspections; and if he will make a statement. [135393]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 11 May 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked how many specialists in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* music, *(d)* languages, *(e)* history, *(f)* geography, *(g)* sciences, *(h)* social sciences and *(i)* physical education are employed by Ofsted to undertake school inspections.

Ofsted's general programme of Section 5 school inspections does not deploy subject specialists. There is a separate programme of subject survey inspections, sampling 45 primary and 45 secondary schools for English and mathematics, and 30 primary and secondary schools for all other subjects, as agreed with the DfES. Subject specialist HMI and additional inspectors supplied by our Regional Inspection Service Providers are deployed for this work. An HMI is appointed as specialist adviser for each subject and carries the national responsibility for the subject inspection programme and the advice and dissemination that arises from it; he or she is supported by colleagues with regional responsibility.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum period is between which Ofsted inspections of individual schools may take place; [137886]

(2) how many schools there are in circumstances where the period since their last Ofsted inspection took place exceeds the maximum period laid down for the next inspection, broken down by local education authority; and if he will make a statement. [137887]

Jim Knight: New statutory arrangements for school inspections came into effect in September 2005, including a new cycle of inspection. All maintained schools must be inspected under these new arrangements between September 2005 and August 2009 and thereafter within three school years from the end of the school year in which their last inspection took place. Ofsted is on course to meet the first of these requirements. Before September 2005, schools were inspected on a six year cycle.

Schools may receive additional visits, for example as part of Ofsted's thematic survey work or programme of monitoring schools causing concern. While there is no specified minimum period between inspections, Ofsted does, for example, seek to avoid scheduling survey visits to schools which have recently had a school inspection.

Schools: Sanitation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the outcomes of the revision of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999, referred to in the answer of 21 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 294W, on school toilets, were in relation to the required standards of toilet facilities provision for pupils. [137731]

Jim Knight: It was our intention to revise the Education (School Premises) Regulations in 2005. Unfortunately due to pressure of work this did not occur. It is now in the business plan for the Department to revise the regulations later this year and school toilets will be one of the areas considered for revision.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of the £840 million allocated for extended schools which *(a)* has been and *(b)* will be spent on toilet and washroom facilities for pupils as referred to in the answer of 23 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1927W, on school toilets. [137732]

Jim Knight: We do not currently collect data on the detail of how local authorities spend their extended schools funding. Of the £840 million allocated for extended schools services, £250 million will go direct to schools. The remaining £590 million will be distributed by local authorities who will be able to prioritise the allocation of resources according to local need and their plans for the development of extended services. We would expect local authorities and schools to plan for necessary toilet provision according to the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999. These set out the requirements regarding washrooms in schools.

Schools: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the time taken to announce the 2008 budget allocations on PE in Sport and Schools Programmes. [136942]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The Government allocate resources to Departments on a three year cycle through Spending Reviews. DfES received its settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 in the 2007 Budget. We are now thoroughly evaluating the financial implications and are working to allocate funding as effectively as possible to ensure the maximum benefit to children and young people. We recognise that forward planning is essential for public services—this is why we are committed to delivering

multi-year budgets—and are making it a priority to ensure allocations are made as soon as possible.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact on schools of the use of target-setting by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [136752]

Jim Knight: Targets are an essential part of the Government's commitment to raising educational standards and the results suggest that they work. Schools have responsibility for setting their own targets. The role of local authorities and School Improvement Partners is to support and challenge their schools to set ambitious targets for all their pupils. The table suggests that the setting of ambitious targets has provided a powerful stimulus for the improvement in both primary and secondary standards over the last nine years.

At Key Stage 2, 95,000 more 11-year-olds are now achieving the level expected for their age in English and 83,000 more in mathematics compared with 1997.

At Key Stage 3 104,000 more pupils are now reaching the level expected of 14-year-olds in maths than in 1997, with 94,000 more in English and 74,000 more in science.

At Key Stage 4, 86,000 more pupils are now achieving five A*-C grades at GCSE than did so in 1997.

	1997	*2006*	*Percentage difference*
KS2 level 4+			
English	63	79	+16
Mathematics	62	76	+14
KS3 level 5+			
English	57	73	+16
Mathematics	60	77	+17
Science	60	72	+12
KS4 GCSE+equiv			
Percentage of 15-year-olds achieving 5+ A*-C grades	45.1	58.5	+13.4

Steiner Schools Foundation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Steiner schools there are in England; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the education offered in those schools. [136833]

Jim Knight: There are currently 27 Steiner schools registered as independent schools with the Department. They are inspected by Ofsted to ensure they meet the statutory requirements which all independent schools must meet as a condition of registration. Inspection reports on Steiner and other independent schools inspected by Ofsted, which describe whether or not the statutory standards are met, are published on the Ofsted website http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/. There are no state maintained Steiner schools.

Teachers: Manpower

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* teacher to pupil ratio and *(b)* classroom assistant to pupil ratio was in (i) nursery, (ii) infant, (iii) junior and (iv) secondary school classes in (A) Hartlepool constituency, (B) the Tees Valley sub-region, (C) the North East region and (D) England in each year since 1997. [134630]

Jim Knight: The following tables show pupil to teacher ratios and pupil to teaching assistant ratios in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in Hartlepool constituency, Tees Valley region, the North East Government office region and England, January 1997 to 2007.

Information for infant and junior schools can not be provided separately.

Pupil teacher ratios and pupil:teaching assistant ratios[1] in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in Hartlepool constituency, the Tees Valley sub-region, the North East GOR and England, January 1997 to 2007[2]

	Hartlepool constituency			*Tees Valley sub-region[3]*		
	Nursery	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Nursery*	*Primary*	*Secondary*
1997						
Pupil:teacher ratio	[4]—	25.2	17.1	[4]—	24.2	16.9
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	[4]—	138.9	843.7	[4]—	126.5	659.8
1998						
Pupil:teacher ratio	[4]—	26.0	18.0	20.7	24.8	17.3
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	[4]—	129.9	703.5	17.9	122.4	617.1
1999						
Pupil:teacher ratio	[4]—	25.1	17.8	18.6	24.4	17.3
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	[4]—	124.6	545.2	15.5	119.5	527.1

Pupil:teacher ratios and pupil:teaching assistant ratios[1] in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in Hartlepool constituency, the Tees Valley sub-region, the North East GOR and England, January 1997 to 2007[2]

	Hartlepool constituency			Tees Valley sub-region[3]		
	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Nursery	Primary	Secondary
2000						
Pupil:teacher ratio	[4]	24.6	17.9	19.8	23.9	17.2
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	[4]	112.8	354.1	15.3	109.0	395.4
2001						
Pupil:teacher ratio	[4]	23.9	17.5	20.5	23.7	16.9
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	[4]	67.7	186.1	15.3	78.6	302.8
2002						
Pupil:teacher ratio	[4]	23.0	16.2	19.0	22.5	16.5
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	[4]	179.8	134.2	15.1	111.1	194.6
2003						
Pupil:teacher ratio	[4]	23.3	17.1	19.3	22.4	16.6
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	[4]	55.4	116.2	13.0	70.9	178.7
2004						
Pupil:teacher ratio	[4]	22.5	16.6	17.2	22.3	16.3
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	[4]	68.2	93.5	11.2	66.1	142.5
2005						
Pupil:teacher ratio	[4]	22.2	16.0	26.6	22.1	16.2
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	[4]	46.0	67.6	18.6	56.4	116.7
2006						
Pupil:teacher ratio	[4]	21.9	16.1	29.1	21.7	16.1
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	[4]	47.3	76.8	26.2	50.1	103.4
2007[5]						
Pupil:teacher ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	North East GOR			England		
	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Nursery	Primary	Secondary
1997						
Pupil:teacher ratio	20.3	23.8	17.1	18.9	23.4	16.7
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	19.3	115.6	932.3	14.0	107.4	388.9
1998						
Pupil:teacher ratio	20.0	23.9	17.4	18.6	23.7	16.9
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	18.7	111.4	806.6	13.6	100.6	342.4
1999						
Pupil:teacher ratio	19.6	23.5	17.4	18.4	23.5	17.0
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	18.1	108.2	618.4	12.7	96.8	294.8
2000						
Pupil:teacher ratio	20.0	23.1	17.3	18.1	23.3	17.2
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	18.1	99.3	483.6	12.1	83.7	255.5
2001						
Pupil:teacher ratio	19.9	22.6	17.0	17.7	22.9	17.1
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	15.3	76.5	349.1	11.4	67.3	209.0

	North East GOR			England		
	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Nursery	Primary	Secondary
2002						
Pupil:teacher ratio	18.7	22.0	16.6	16.6	22.5	16.9
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	13.6	91.4	243.5	10.2	60.8	167.2
2003						
Pupil:teacher ratio	18.3	21.9	16.7	16.4	22.6	17.0
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	13.7	68.4	206.2	9.8	52.2	148.5
2004						
Pupil:teacher ratio	17.5	21.8	16.4	16.2	22.7	17.0
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	18.1	59.0	161.3	9.9	47.4	131.2
2005						
Pupil:teacher ratio	18.4	21.7	16.2	16.5	22.5	16.7
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	13.4	50.7	141.3	9.4	42.6	110.6
2006						
Pupil:teacher ratio	19.1	21.5	16.1	16.3	22.0	16.6
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	16.4	48.1	117.9	9.2	41.6	98.7
2007[5]						
Pupil:teacher ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.8	21.8	16.5
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.3	38.5	91.7

n/a = not available.
[1] Teaching assistants include teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.
[2] Provisional 2007 parliamentary constituency and local authority data will be available on 18 May 2007.
[3] Tees Valley sub-region consists of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton and Darlington local authorities. Darlington became a new authority in 1998 and is therefore not included in the 1997 figures.
[4] Figures below 5.
[5] Provisional.
Source:
Annual School Census.

Teachers: West Bromwich

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching support assistants were employed in West Bromwich East constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [136722]

Jim Knight: There were 730 full-time equivalent regular teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in West Bromwich East constituency in January 2006, the latest information available. The comparable number of support staff was 540 of which 260 were teaching assistants.

Provisional 2007 teacher and support staff numbers at the national level were published on 26 April.

Teaching Methods

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1868W, on teaching methods, what categories of class assignment were recorded by Ofsted *(a)* before 2002-03 and *(b)* after 2002-03. [136767]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 May 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked, following our answer of 3 May 2007 on teaching methods, what categories of class assignment were recorded by Ofsted *(a)* before 2002-03 and *(b)* after 2002-03.

The information recorded by inspectors on classes observed during inspections has been outlined overleaf in Annex A. As requested, I have included information from 1993 to the present day.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Annex A

Information recorded by inspectors on classes observed during inspections from 1993 to the present

1993-1996 Framework

Inspectors recorded the following information about each class observed:

1. Year group(s)
2. Subject taught
3. Number of pupils present and number on roll
4. The numbers of boys and girls present
5. The ability of the class, selecting from the following categories:

Upper
Middle
Lower
Mixed

6. Where relevant, the external accreditation towards which the class was working.

1996-1999 Framework

Inspectors recorded the following information about each class observed:

1. Year group(s)

2. Subject taught

3. Number of pupils present and number on roll

4. The composition of the class, or grouping, making use of the following categories:

Groups formed in class according to age

Mixed ability class with no grouping by ability

Groups within a mixed ability class formed on the basis of prior attainment

Setted class formed on the basis of prior attainment in the subject

Banded or streamed class formed on the basis of prior attainment in a range of subjects

Other form of organisation

5. Where relevant, the external accreditation, for example A-level or GCSE, towards which the class was working

6. The lesson type, making use of the following categories:

Whole class lesson

Group work

Individualised work

A mixture of the above types

Other type of activity

2000-2003 Framework (effective from January 2000)

Inspectors recorded the following information about each class observed:

1. Year group(s)

2. Subject taught

3. Number of pupils present and number on roll

4. The composition of the class, or grouping, making use of the following categories:

Mixed ability class, with no grouping by age or ability

Mixed ability class, with groups within the class formed by age of pupils

Mixed ability class, with groups within the class formed by prior attainment

Setted class formed on the basis of prior subject attainment

Banded or streamed class formed on the basis of prior attainment in a range of subjects

Other form of organisation

5. Where relevant, the external accreditation, for example A-level or GCSE, towards which the class was working

6. The lesson type, making use of the following categories:

Whole class lesson

Group work

Individual work

A mixture of any of the above three types

Any other form of activity

2003-2005 Framework

Inspectors recorded the following information about each class observed:

1. Year group(s)

2. Subject taught

3. Number of pupils present and number on roll

4. The composition of the class, or grouping, making use of the following categories:

Mixed ability class

An observation within a mixed ability class of an upper ability group

An observation within a mixed ability class of an average ability group

An observation within a mixed ability class of a lower ability group

A class setted or streamed by ability where the pupils were within the upper ability range within the school

A class setted or streamed by ability where the pupils were within the average ability range within the school

A class setted or streamed by ability where the pupils were within the lower ability range within the school

Other forms of organisation

5. Where relevant, the broad category of external accreditation towards which the class was working and whether the course was Level 1, 2 or 3.

Framework from September 2005

Inspectors record the following information about each class observed:

1. Year group(s)

2. Subject taught

3. Number of pupils present and number on roll

4. The composition of the class, or grouping, making use of the following categories:

Mixed ability class

Class setted or streamed by ability where the pupils are in the upper ability range within the school

Class setted or streamed by ability where the pupils are in the average ability range within the school

Class setted or streamed by ability where the pupils are in the lower ability range within the school

Other kinds of organisation

Whether the class is made up of boys, girls or is mixed gender

Vocational Guidance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people received advice from the careers service in each year from 1990 to 2000. [138164]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the numbers of individuals helped is not held. However, the number of interviews given by the careers service in the financial years 1994-95 to 1999-2000 was as follows:

	Number of interviews
1994/95	[1]826,868
1995/96	2,300,044
1996/97	2,391,808
1997/98	2,404,365
1998/99	2,221,692
1999/2000	2,455,948

[1] Data held for Year 11 students only

Before 1994-95 the careers service was administered by local authorities and information on the numbers interviewed is not held.

Vocational Guidance: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what consideration he has given to providing careers advice for children from the age of 12 years. [137755]

Jim Knight: The provision of careers education is a statutory requirement for students from year 7. The document "Careers Education and Guidance in England: A National Framework 11-19" provides non-statutory guidance for this provision.

William Beaumont School Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he has given any instructions or directions to Warrington borough council which have delayed or prevented the rebuilding of William Beaumont high school. [137149]

Jim Knight: It is the responsibility of each local authority to determine how funds allocated by the Department should be spent, and the Department does not intervene in this process. Accordingly, no instructions or directions have been given to Warrington borough council which have delayed or prevented the rebuilding of William Beaumont high school. It is understood, from the local authority, that William Beaumont has been accorded a high priority in future spending plans.

Young People: Magazine Press

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the evidential basis was for the statement made by Ofsted in its report Time for Change? Personal, Social and Health Education, that teenage magazines are a positive source of advice for young people; whom Ofsted consulted before making this statement; what recent representations he has received about this comment from *(a)* parents, *(b)* head teachers of schools and *(c)* organisations; and if he will make a statement. [136775]

Jim Knight: The Department has not received representations from parents, head teachers or organisations about this statement in the Ofsted report.

Matters relating to this report, the evidential basis for judgments within it and any consultation around the specific statement are for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member on these matters and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

However, Ministers and officials have ongoing discussions with Ofsted about issues relating to PSHE.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 May 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked what the evidential basis was for the statement made by Ofsted in its report, Time for Change? Personal, Social and Health Education (HMI 070049), that teenage magazines are a positive source of advice for young people, and whom Ofsted consulted before making this statement.

In our report we reported the views expressed by young people that their parents were often reluctant to discuss sexual matters; and that some parents were concerned about the suitability of information that young people receive from other sources, such as magazines, even when these could be useful.

The report explains that whilst magazines aimed at young men sometimes reinforce sexist attitudes, they can also provide a source of information and advice. Young people told us during the course of 350 inspections that the 'problem pages' in magazines are a positive source of advice and reassurance for many of them. Notably, a large proportion of these magazines now stress the importance of safe sex.

The report also commented that some magazines communicate, inaccurately, the perception that all young people are sexually active. Additionally, difficulties can arise if the messages in these magazines clash with parental and cultural norms.

The report does not quote specific magazines but was intended to refer to a range of magazines suitable for different age groups. Our report was based largely on visits to schools over a three year period, backed by research in the area of teaching and learning PSHE.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anzac Landings: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand on Anzac Day. [138176]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held any recent discussions with Australia and New Zealand regarding Anzac Day.

The New Zealand Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the Anzac ceremonies in London in April 2006 and had discussions with the then Foreign Secretary my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw). These covered both Anzac Day and the New Zealand War memorial in Hyde Park which was opened by Her Majesty The Queen on 11 November last year.

Australia: Climate Change

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Australian Government on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. [138171]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed climate change and greenhouse gas emissions with Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer at the first Australia/UK Ministerial Meeting held at Lancaster House on 18 December 2006. We continue to have regular dialogue with Australia on climate change issues. Most recently, Sir Nicholas Stern spoke about climate change with Australian Prime Minister John Howard during his visit to Canberra in March.

Australia: Festivals and Special Occasions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representation there is of HM the Queen at the ceremonies held to mark each public holiday, national day and ceremonial day in *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand. [138122]

Mr. McCartney: Her Majesty The Queen is represented at all appropriate occasions by the Governors-General of Australia and New Zealand respectively, acting on the advice of those countries' Governments.

Australia: New Zealand

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has plans to meet the Governor General of *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand. [138209]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to meet the Governors General of Australia or New Zealand.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to meet the Foreign Minister of *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand. [138213]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary plans to meet the Australian Foreign Minister at the Australia/UK Ministerial Meeting in Australia next year.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no present plans to meet the Foreign Minister of New Zealand.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for official visits to the UK by members of the Governments of *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand. [138215]

Mr. McCartney: At present there are no firm plans for official visits to the UK by the Government of Australia.

Present plans for inward visits by the New Zealand Government include visits by the hon. Annette King, Minister of Transport and Minister of Police, from 1-3 June; and the hon. Margaret Wilson, Speaker of the House of Representatives, from 2-7 June.

Australia: Overseas Residence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals took up residence in *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand in each of the last 10 years. [138210]

Mr. McCartney: Figures from the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship show that, from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 2006, 182,616 UK nationals have taken up residence in Australia.

Figures from Immigration New Zealand show that, from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 2006, 80,071 UK nationals have taken up residence in New Zealand.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment has been made of the level of capability achieved by Iran in the production of fissile material which could be used in a nuclear weapon; and if she will make a statement; [138578]

(2) what assessment has been made of the likely date at which Iran will reach its stated goal of installing and operating 3,000 centrifuge machines at its enrichment facility in Natanz; [138579]

(3) what assessment has been made of the stage reached by Iran in the installation of centrifuges at its enrichment facility in Natanz; [138580]

(4) what is the latest assessment that has been made of the progress by Iran towards the mastery of uranium enrichment technology; [138581]

(5) pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 837W, on Iran: nuclear weapons, what definition she uses of mastery of enrichment technology; and what *(a)* level and *(b)* scale of (i) centrifuge operation and (ii) enriched uranium production is referred to. [138582]

Mr. McCartney: Iran is defying calls by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors, made mandatory by the UN Security Council, to suspend all uranium enrichment-related, reprocessing and heavy water-related activities. These activities are of proliferation concern because they would enable Iran to develop the capability to produce fissile material that could be used in nuclear weapons.

Iran has produced very small quantities of enriched uranium at its pilot fuel enrichment plant at Natanz and is now installing centrifuges in the Fuel Enrichment Plant. The IAEA reported on 22 February that,

"During meetings in Iran in January 2007, Iran informed the Agency of its plan to....continue progressively with the installation of the 18 cascades of the 3,000-machine hall and to bring them gradually into operation by May 2007".

Most recently, in a letter to the Iranian representative to the IAEA on 18 April, the IAEA reported the information Iran had provided to inspectors that

"Iran has put into operation eight cascades at the Fuel Enrichment Plant in Natanz and that some UF6 is being fed into those cascades".

We now await the Director-General of the IAEA, Mohamed El Baradei's, official report on Iran's compliance with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1747 which will give a further update of Iranian progress at the fuel enrichment plant, which is due on 23 May.

Enriching uranium is a complex technical process which requires diagnostic testing and the running of multiple cascades over a sustained period. It remains our assessment that Iran has not mastered the process.

We will consider next steps in light of the Director-General's upcoming report on compliance with UNSCR 1747. UNSCRs 1696, 1737 and 1747 make it mandatory that Iran suspends its enrichment-related and reprocessing activities before negotiations aimed at a long-term agreement can commence. We remain committed to a negotiated solution. We continue to urge Iran to take the steps required by the Security Council and IAEA Board, and to return to talks on the basis of the proposals presented to Iran on 6 June 2006 by EU High Representative Javier Solana on behalf of the 'E3+3'.

Luis Posada Carriles

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the US Administration on its release of Luis Posada Carriles from detention. [138179]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any representations to the US Administration on its release of Luis Posada Carriles from jail.

The question of his extradition from the US is a matter for the authorities in the US and for any country which may request his extradition.

North Korea: South Korea

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of progress in relations between North and South Korea. [138248]

Mr. McCartney: The inter-Korean relationship looks to be back on track. The 20th Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks (IKMT) took place in Pyongyang on 27 February to 2 March for the first time since July 2006. The 13th round of Inter-Korean Economic Co-operation Promotion Talks also took place in Pyongyang on 18-22 April, face-to-face reunions between separated family members were held on 9 May and the next round of IKMT has been scheduled to take place this month. South Korea has said that they will be looking to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to take steps in the coming months to start implementing the 13 February Agreement and made clear that the provision of rice aid will be dependent upon this. Further progress in relations was demonstrated on 17 May when railway tests were successfully conducted between North and South Korea—this was the first time trains had operated between the two Koreas for 50 years.

I raised the UK's commitment to the process of improving inter-Korean relations during my meeting with the DPRK ambassador on 17 May.

UN Resolutions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to meet their obligations under Article 2 of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on the prevention of non-state actors from financing activities to support the development of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. [137098]

Mr. McCartney: In its national reports to the 1540 Committee, the UK set out the framework of domestic legislation that relates to Article 2 of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004). These national reports will be placed in the Library of the House. The UK has one of the best records in the world on implementation of UNSCR 1540 and we work constantly to ensure that all aspects of the resolution are fully implemented, including on proliferation finance. In addition, the standards agreed within the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), of which the UK is a member, help to promote the international legal framework necessary to combat illicit finance of all kinds. In February, G7 Ministers called specifically for the FATF to examine the risks involved in weapons of mass destruction proliferation finance.

Vietnam: Human Rights

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the human rights situation in Vietnam. [138249]

Mr. McCartney: We are concerned at the recent arrest and sentencing of several peaceful human rights offenders in Vietnam who have been charged with "conducting propaganda". We, along with our EU partners, have made numerous representations to the Vietnamese authorities on this issue.

Most recently, on 15 May, the EU issued a statement expressing its concern about the current situation and calling on the Vietnamese Government to release all non-violent political activists who have simply exercised their rights to freedom of expression and association.

I raised our concerns about the arrest and detention of human rights activists with the Vietnamese Vice-Minister Le Cung Phung during the EU/Association of South East Asian Nations ministerial meeting in Nuremberg on 14-15 March. I also raised this issue with the Vietnamese ambassador on 10 May.

We will continue to raise the question of human rights defenders, along with other human rights issues, with the Vietnamese Government, including during the EU's Human Rights Dialogue with the Vietnamese Government.

Weapons: Hezbollah

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make an assessment of the implementation of United Nations Resolution 1701, on the rearmament of Hezbollah. [138325]

Mr. McCartney: There has been considerable progress on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701, which brought the Israel/Hezbollah conflict to an end in August 2006.

The UK continues to have concerns about breaches of UNSCR Resolution 1701, in particular on the arms embargo. In March the UN Secretary-General reported that there was mounting evidence that Hezbollah was rearming and smuggling arms across the Syria/Lebanon border.

The UK continues to work to ensure the full implementation of UNSCR 1701. We are supporting a German-led initiative to improve border security and prevent arms smuggling across the Syria/Lebanon border. We have also provided the Lebanese armed forces with 50 Land Rovers to increase their mobility and capacity to implement UNSCR 1701. The UK has also welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for UN assessment mission to travel to Lebanon to assess the security at the border and make recommendations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Architecture: Registration

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the merits of introducing an inexpensive appeals

procedure for architects removed from the Architects Register administered by the Architects Registration Board. [137624]

Angela E. Smith: I am not aware that the case has been made for such a change. The Architects Registration Board procedures for investigating complaints involve an investigation and scrutiny by their investigations and professional conduct committees. The courts, to which those removed from the register can have recourse, already encourage the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has discussed the increased subscription rates asked for by the Architects Registration Board with the Board and ascertained their reasons for the rise. [137625]

Angela E. Smith: No—the setting of subscription rates is a matter solely for the Board of the Architects Registration Board (ARB) and I have had no discussions with them. The current ARB fee for registration is £78 (with effect from 1 January 2007). This compares with £76.50 for last year—an increase of 2 per cent. Fees are set to recover the full costs of the Board's work.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to reduce the regulation of architects administered by the Architects Registration Board. [137626]

Angela E. Smith: No—I have no such plans. I am satisfied that the Architects Registration Board is exercising its powers properly and proportionately.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Royal Institute of British Architects concerning the Architects Registration Board. [137627]

Angela E. Smith: I met the President and the President-elect of the Royal Institute of British Architects on 10 May to discuss issues they had raised about the operation of the Architects Registration Board.

Buildings: Climate Change

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure that the *(a)* Code For Sustainable Homes And *(B)* Building Regulations take account of the effects of climate change on buildings; and if she will make a statement. [138245]

Angela E. Smith: The building regulations and the code for sustainable homes are both key components of the Government's strategy tackling climate change and its effects.

The amendments made in 2006 to Part L of the Building Regulations have, for example, increased the energy performance standards for new buildings by around 40 per cent. compared with pre-2002 levels. We have also recently consulted on making all new homes zero carbon by 2016 through further changes to Part L. These actions, together with the Code for Sustainable Homes and the draft planning policy statement on climate change—should save between five and seven million tonnes of carbon by 2020. Further details on the Department's climate change policy can be found at www.communities.gov.uk.

Building to the standards set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes will help new homes mitigate for many of the effects associated with climate change including possible water shortages, increased rainfall and flooding. Building Regulations already help address many of the impacts of climate change and will be kept under review as necessary to ensure that they continue to do so effectively.

We are also working closely with stakeholders on what could be done to further reduce the impact of non-domestic new buildings and existing buildings on climate change.

Community Development: Government Office for London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how expenditure by new deal for communities boards is scrutinised by the Government office for London; and if she will make a statement. [131646]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The Government office for London (GOL) has certified and authorised quarterly payments to new deal for communities (NDC) accountable bodies based on claims submitted to GOL for defrayed expenditure. Accountable bodies ensure proper supervision of expenditure through an annual audit of grant expenditure. These are audited by the Audit Commission and are subject to National Audit Office audit.

Where any underspends or overspends are identified, GOL liaises with the accountable body and the NDC to make adjustments. GOL ensures, through its performance management of the NDCS, that expenditure plans match with business improvement plans agreed by NDC bodies. From April 2007, Communities and Local Government will take responsibility for the physical payment of NDC grant but GOL will retain responsibility for performance management.

Council House Transfers: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people living *(a)* in the Chelmsford local authority area and *(b)* outside the Chelmsford local authority area are on the Chelmsford housing transfer list; and what the figures were in 1997. [132412]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: Information regarding housing transfers is not held centrally. However, local authorities in England report the numbers of households (not people) on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 977W.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of council housing debt write off for large scale voluntary transfers for each of the last six years; and what estimate she has made for 2007-08. [119830]

Yvette Cooper: If a local authority's attributable housing debt is not cleared either in part or in entirety by receipts from an RSL through large-scale voluntary transfer arrangements, the debt that remains is transferred from the local authority sector to central Government through a payment made to the Public Works Loan Board. Overhanging debt payments to the Public Works Loans Board under these debt transfer arrangements over the last six years are shown in the following table:

	£ million
2000-01	276
2001-02	0
2002-03	548
2003-04	91
2004-05	591
2005-06	386
Total	1,892

In 2006-07 we expect overhanging debt transactions with the PWLB to total about £600 million.

The extent of overhanging debt transferred to the central Government sector in 2007-08 is dependent on positive tenant ballots, and the completion of transfer transactions up to 31 March 2008. It is too early to estimate what these might be.

Council Tax

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government have plans to enable local authorities to give a discount to council tax payers who pay their annual charge upfront as a lump sum. [138593]

Mr. Woolas: Local authorities already have powers under Section 13 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to offer a local council tax discount. However, this power is discretionary and it is for the local authority to decide how to use it.

Council Tax: Armed Forces

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects discussions between her Department and the Ministry of Defence on exemption from council tax for members of the armed forces serving overseas to conclude. [137909]

Mr. Woolas: Discussions between the Department and the Ministry of Defence on providing support for the council tax costs in England of service personnel on operations abroad are ongoing. I expect them to be concluded shortly.

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many changes were made to council tax bandings for individual properties as a result of *(a)* a material increase in the value of the dwelling followed by the sale of the property, *(b)* a material increase in the value of the dwelling without any sale, *(c)* an increase or decrease in the domestic use of a composite hereditament and *(d)* the property being originally allocated to the wrong value band in the last year for which figures are available. [127049]

Ruth Kelly: In the year to 31 March 2007 there were 12,118 changes to council tax bandings following the sale of a property to reflect a "material increase" in value resulting from property improvements made prior to the sale date. No changes were made to reflect a "material increase" without any sale as this is prohibited by legislation. The number of changes as a result of an increase or decrease in the domestic use of a composite hereditament or the property being originally allocated to the wrong value band could be ascertained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on consultants as a result of the Housing Market Renewal scheme in each of the last five years. [133746]

Yvette Cooper: Figures on expenditure on external advice including consultancy are not held centrally. The pathfinders decide on how to spend their budgets including how much to spend through staff they employ directly and how much to spend through external contracts depending on the skills required. External contracts included masterplanning and feasibility studies (approximately 40 per cent. of the overall spend), research and housing market intelligence studies (approximately 20 per cent.), and community engagement and consultation (approximately 10 per cent.). The total Housing Market Renewal Fund spend over the five year period was £888 million. The following table includes the amount the pathfinders estimate has been spent on such external contracts.

Financial year	*Estimated HMRF external contracts (£ million)*
2002-03	0.46
2003-04	4.19
2004-05	12.00
2005-06	14.86
2006-07	11.64
Total for 2002-07	43.15

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many grievance procedures have been initiated in her Department in the last 12 months. [135169]

Angela E. Smith: Eight formal grievances have been raised in the Department for Communities and Local Government (and the predecessor Department the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister) during the last 12 months (for the period April 2006 to March 2007).

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in her Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135365]

Angela E. Smith: There have been no formal complaints of sexual harassment raised in the Department for Communities and Local Government (and the predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) during the last 12 months (for the period April 2006 to March 2007).

Fire Services: Armed Forces

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Green Goddess emergency fire appliances are available for use in emergencies. [137879]

Angela E. Smith: There are no Green Goddess fire appliances available for use in emergencies. These vehicles date from the 1950s, and do not meet performance standards that are expected in 2007. In consequence, they have been phased out of operational use across the UK. It is the responsibility of individual fire and rescue authorities to make their own arrangements for the provision of emergency cover. This includes the supply of modern appliances and equipment that are able to meet current expectations.

Green Roofs

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department and its predecessors have sponsored into green roofs since May 1997. [137146]

Angela E. Smith: I am not aware of any research that the Department and its predecessor Departments have sponsored into green roofs since May 1997. However I understand that English Nature carried out studies into green roofs in 2002-03 "Green Roofs: their existing status and potential for conserving biodiversity in urban areas"—English Nature Report 498. A copy of the report can be found on their website at:

http://www.english-nature.org.uk/news/news photo/Greenroofs.pdf

Green Belt

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on building on the green belt in *(a)* England and *(b)* Oxfordshire. [138178]

Yvette Cooper: National planning policies on green belts are set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 2. Strict planning controls on green belt land are in place and there is a general presumption against inappropriate development within green belts. Decisions on individual planning applications for development in the green belt are a matter for the local planning authority.

The designation and review of green belt boundaries in Oxfordshire, within the national policy framework set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 2, is the responsibility of planning authorities, through the development plan process.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of "significant" her Department uses in the context of proposals for significant development in the green belt where the Secretary of State will consider recovery of planning appeals. [134852]

Yvette Cooper: Each case is considered on its merits.

HomeBuy Schemes

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are to expand the HomeBuy schemes. [133814]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 25 April 2007]:* We are committed to helping 120,000 households into low cost home ownership between 2005 and 2010, an increase of 20,000 on our previous target.

The Government's HomeBuy programme is made up of 3 schemes: New Build HomeBuy, Social HomeBuy and Open Market HomeBuy. Social and Open Market HomeBuy are both pilots which will run to March 2008. Along with New Build HomeBuy, we are planning to continue both schemes into 2008-11 and will be developing them further, building on experience of the pilots.

On 21 March the Government announced the launch of a Competition later this year for new and existing lenders to join in a 2008-11 round of expanded Open Market HomeBuy. The Government will be looking for products which offer competitive terms and value for money as well as new and innovative mechanisms to widen the availability of shared equity products.

Homelessness: Hostels

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many single homeless people are in hostel accommodation in England. [136535]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally.

Housing Act 2004

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to business of implementing section 257 of the Housing Act 2004. [134662]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has made no separate assessment of the cost to business of applying Part 2 (licensing provisions) of the Housing Act to those property types defined in section 257 of the Housing Act 2004. The power to license any types of buildings falling within the scope of section 257 will be discretionary and could only be used where specific management problems are identified with the types of building to which a licensing scheme is intended to apply.

Housing: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is being awarded to the London borough of Barnet for the regional housing allocation 2007, broken down by category of funding; how many homes in each category in Barnet are expected to receive such funding; and if she will make a statement. [136652]

Yvette Cooper: In 2007-08 the London borough of Barnet is receiving £2,128,000 from the regional housing pot in the form of supported capital expenditure (revenue) for decent homes work on its own stock. At the start of January 2006 there were 4,716 non-decent local authority properties in Barnet.

In addition to this, in 2007-08 capital grant funding from the regional housing pot has been paid to the London borough of Barnet as lead authority on behalf of the North London Sub-Regional Housing Partnership. The award of grant breaks down as follows:

£3,070,000 for decent homes work on private sector homes occupied by vulnerable people;

£1,685,000 to bring empty properties back into use;

£1,075,000 for extensions or remodelling to provide family homes.

A share of this sub-regional funding will be spent in Barnet but it is not yet possible to say how much as the funding is allocated within the sub-region by the participating boroughs.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what resource is available to local residents when a residential building project is left uncompleted to the detriment of the surrounding area to force the owners *(a)* to complete the project and *(b)* to pass it on to an organisation willing to do so. [136663]

Yvette Cooper: Section 94 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 gives local planning authorities the power to serve a completion notice on the owner/occupier/developer of land where an approved development has been started, but work has been interrupted or left unfinished and where there appears to be no prospect of completion within a reasonable period. If the development is not completed within the time specified in the notice (no less than 12 months after the notice takes effect), then the planning permission will cease to have effect in relation to the development referred to in the completion notice that has not been carried out.

Development must normally be started within three years of the granted planning permission and a completion notice cannot be served until this period has expired; a completion notice does not take effect unless and until it is confirmed by the Secretary of State.

Completion notices enable local authorities to seek to ensure that development projects with planning permission are not just started but finished. Local planning authorities also have powers under section 97 and section 102 of the 1990 Act to make an Order revoking planning permission, prior to it being implemented, where they consider it expedient to do so, or to make an order requiring that any use of land shall be discontinued or continued subject to conditions, or that any buildings or works, shall be altered or removed. Such orders must usually be confirmed by the Secretary of State.

Difficulties often arise if a developer experiences financial problems in implementing a project, and a completion notice in these circumstances may be of limited practical effect. Much depends on the land ownership position as to whether an uncompleted project is transferred to another developer.

Housing: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of housing need was recorded in the most recent strategy statement of each local housing authority in Hampshire. [135918]

Yvette Cooper: The assessment of housing need, for both market and affordable housing, is complex. The way in which this is presented in local housing strategies and the amount of information provided varies considerably across authorities. It is not possible to adequately summarise this for all Hampshire authorities without incurring disproportionate cost.

Housing: Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder scheme on the housing market in Newcastle. [135639]

Yvette Cooper: To complement pathfinders' own evaluation work and the scrutiny of the Audit Commission, the Department has commissioned an independent national evaluation of the Housing Market Renewal programme. The evaluation baseline report, published in March 2007, revealed that "considerable progress" has been made by Bridging Newcastle Gateshead (BNG).

Housing: Noise

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what constitutes a significant effect on an occupant's health due to structural noise issues when applying the new Housing Health and Safety Rating regime; and if she will make a statement. [136363]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The Housing Health and Safety Rating System Operating Guidance sets out a number of adverse health effects which excess noise can cause.

The best understood effects of noise are psychological disturbances and physiological changes resulting from annoyance and sleep disturbance. Typical health effects are stress responses, sleep disorders and lack of concentration. Headaches, anxiety and irritability are also associated with noise induced stress, and the effects of sleep disturbance may affect the mood the following day.

Housing: Parking

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of planning guidelines for building new properties with one and a half car spaces on levels of congestion in neighbouring roads; and if she will make a statement. [136751]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Policy Statement 3: "Housing", published last November, gives local authorities the responsibility for deciding their policies for residential car-parking, taking account of expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design, and the need to use land efficiently. The guidance in Planning Policy Guidance Note 3, "Housing" which advocated residential parking standards of no more than 1.5 off-street spaces per average dwelling has been cancelled.

Housing: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to stop rural de-population; what steps she is taking to encourage *(a)* house building and *(b)* social housing development in village communities; and what progress has been made with the Goodman Review. [136766]

Yvette Cooper: The population of rural districts grew by almost 800,000 between 1995 and 2005, and is projected to rise by another 2 million by 2029. The rate of increase in rural areas is more than double that for urban areas, which is one of the reasons we have to increase the supply of housing in rural communities.

Following an independent review by Kate Barker in 2004, Government set a challenging ambition to increase the supply of new housing overall to at least 200,000 per annum by 2016. Good progress has already been made—from a low of around 130,000 new homes in 2001-02, housing supply has increased to over 180,000 in 2005-06.

Our recent Planning Policy Statement, "Housing" (PPS3) requires local authorities and regions to take a positive and active approach to creating sustainable rural communities, including setting housing provision figures for rural local planning authorities and housing market areas, and adopting targets for the delivery of rural affordable housing.

PPS3 was strongly informed by the work of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission. Other issues for central Government in the Commission's report we are addressing or will consider as part of the forthcoming comprehensive spending review. Progress is detailed on the Affordable Rural Housing website managed jointly by this Department and the Department for Rural Affairs.

www.defra.gov.uk/rural/arh/index.htm

Housing: Standards

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the tenants of homes improved under the Decent Homes Programme are informed of the SAP rating of their homes; and if she will make a statement. [135725]

Yvette Cooper: At present there is no Government requirement for social tenants to be informed of the SAP rating of their homes but this will change with the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The legislation for this was laid in Parliament in March 2007 and will come into force in a phased manner. From 1 October 2008, energy performance certificates will have to be given to tenants each time a home is rented out.

Housing: Swindon

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on improving the condition of social housing in Swindon in each year since 1995. [127664]

Yvette Cooper: The earliest year for which figures are practically available is 1998-99. Pre 1998-99 data is available at disproportionate cost only.

The two funding streams that the Department awards for spending on council housing are supported borrowing and the major repairs allowance. Supported borrowing is where the Government pay the interest on local authority borrowing, allowing it to borrow for capital works to the stock. Under supported borrowing the amounts Swindon borough council has been awarded in Basic Credit Approvals BCA(1998-99 to 2003-04) and Housing Revenue Account Supported Capital Expenditure (SCE) (2004-05 to 2007-08) are set out in the following table. SCEs for 2004-5 and 2005-06 covered expenditure on both council stock and private sector stock, and allocations were not hypothecated. From 2006-07 onwards SCEs covered only expenditure on council housing. The major repairs allowance only came into effect in 2001-02.

	Supported borrowing	(£) Major repairs allowance
1998-1999	657,530	n/a
1999-2000	743,000	n/a
2000-2001	0	n/a
2001-2002	0	5,878,121
2002-2003	317,000	5,980,078
2003-2004	794,000	6,096,899
2004-2005	1,012,474	6,171,566
2005-2006	1,293,368	6,342,804
2006-2007	500,000	6,519,964
2007-2008	500,000	6,665,169

n/a = Not applicable

Grants for non-local authority social housing, provided through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme for miscellaneous works including improvements works to Registered Social Landlords' housing stock in Swindon, are as follows:

	£
1997-98	69,600
1998-99	0
1999-00	35,800
2000-01	0
2001-02	95,600
2002-03	9,800
2003-04	169,700
2004-05	0
2005-06	0

Pre 1997-1998 data is only available at disproportionate cost. 2005-06 is the last year for which we have audited data.

Local authorities are, of course, free to spend their own resources on social housing, just as registered social landlords are.

Local Authorities: Environment Protection

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what value of fines were levied in England and Wales by local authorities with respect to offences under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in each year since 1997-98. [137890]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

The number and value of fines relating to littering offences in England are shown in the following table.

Under sections 92 and 94 of the Environmental Protection Act, local authorities can prosecute for a maximum £2,500 fine for failure to comply with either a litter clearing notice or street litter control notice. We do not hold data on the number or value of these fines prior to 2006. From April 2006, a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) is available as an alternative to prosecution for these offences and this data will be available in July. Data relating to offences in Wales are held by the Welsh Assembly Government.

	Littering FPNs issues	Collected (£)
2005-06	33,033	911,813
2004-05	25,326	434,869
2003-02	7,565	[1]
2002-03	12,820	231,547
2001-02	11,652	138,840
2000-01	2,247	[1]
1999-2000	2,970	39,075
1998-09	4,778	63,240

[1] No data available.

Local Government Finance: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the (a) cash and (b) percentage change has been in total external support for each London local authority since 1997; [137756]

(2) what the (a) cash and (b) percentage change has been in Government support per 1,000 people in each London local authority since 1997. [137757]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the amount of and percentage change in Government funding for each London local authority since 1997, both actual and per 1,000 people, has been made available in tables which have been placed in the Library of the House.

Government funding is defined here as the sum of specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), formula grant (Revenue Support Grant, Redistributed business rates and Police Grant) and General Greater London Authority (GLA) Grant.

The figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for an authority's core services, but is passed to a third party; for example, as in the case of mandatory student awards), capital grants, funding for local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which grants for which her Department is responsible have been made to Westminster city council, outside the revenue support grant, in each year since 1997-98; and what the value was of each grant. [137758]

Mr. Woolas: The grants made to Westminster city council in each year since 1997-98 by this Department, as recorded by the council in the Communities and Local Government Revenue returns, are shown in the following table (all figures in £000s):

Grants	£000
1997-98	Nil
1998-99	
Other grants within AEF	50
1999-2000	
The Private Finance Initiative	341

Grants	£000
2000-01	
The Private Finance Initiative	524
Other grants within AEF	1,014
2001-02	
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	749
The Private Finance Initiative	504
Other grants within AEF	2,002
2002-03	
Supporting People Implementation Grant	313
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	1,123
The Private Finance Initiative	491
Other grants within AEF	690
2003-04	
Local Public Service Agreement Performance Reward	36
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	1,779
Planning Delivery	51
The Private Finance Initiative	472
Supporting People Administration	344
Supporting People Programme	18,193
Other	6,791
2004-05	
Homelessness Strategies	6,896
Local Public Service Agreement Performance Reward	193
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	1,468
Neighbourhood Wardens	256
Planning Development	426
Supporting People Administration	336
Supporting People Programme—Housing	17,787
Other	2,969
2005-06	
Homelessness Strategies	6,195
Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme	109
Local Public Service Agreement Performance Reward	61
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	1,486
Planning Delivery	394
Supporting People Administration	269
Supporting People Programme—Housing	17,681
Other grants within AEF	3,050
2006-07	
Homelessness Strategies	6,500
Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme	1,444
Local Public Service Agreement Performance Reward Grant	299
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	2,347
Planning Delivery	675
Supporting People Administration Grant	269
Supporting People Programme—Housing	17,022
Other grants within AEF	3,108

The table sets out the specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services) paid to Westminster and excludes grants outside AEF such as capital grants, funding for local authorities' housing management responsibilities, European funding, or where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area. Revenue support grant and other elements of formula grant (such as redistributed business rates and police grant) have also been excluded.

Revenue outturn data have been used from 1997-98 to 2005-06 (the last year available) and revenue account data have been used for 2006-07.

There are a number of smaller grants included in an "Other" category on the revenue returns submitted by local authorities. The totals of these are included above, although it is possible that there are grants from other Government Departments in this category. It is not possible to identify these separately within the return. The Private Finance Initiative grant has also been included above, although this will cover projects outside the policy responsibility of this Department.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net income from capital receipts, including property and land disposals, was in each London local authority in each of the last 10 years. [137765]

Angela E. Smith: Information on the amount of capital receipts reported by each London local authority over the last 10 years has been made available in a table which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Capital receipts shown are gross, excluding the portion of receipts applied in defraying the administrative costs arising from the disposal of land or housing held under Part II of the Housing Act 1985 (regulation 23(e)).

National Mobility Scheme

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what programme she will introduce to replace the National Mobility Scheme and other initiatives designed to allow tenants to carry out mutual exchanges; and if she will make a statement. [133659]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have replaced the mutual exchange scheme, which was facilitated by Scout Solutions Projects Ltd., with a number of alternative providers offering a free of charge service. These services can be accessed via the Government's website, www.direct.gov.co.uk/socialhousing. This link also provides access to information on a wide range of housing-related matters and the full range of

Government services. The Government are also providing funding to support the development of 26 sub-regional choice-based lettings schemes and one regional choice-based lettings scheme covering all London authorities. When operational these schemes should make it easier for people to move between neighbouring authorities and ultimately across regional boundaries.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's first estimate was of the total contribution to be made from the departmental budget towards the costs of hosting the Olympic games; and what her Department's current estimate is of that cost. [133291]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the announcement made on 15 March 2007 by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, which set out in detail both the budget for the games and the background to it. A schedule has been placed in the Library of the House.

How the Government contribution will be funded departmentally will be determined as part of the Spending Review discussions which are currently under way

Planning Permission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Planning Inspectorate requires three copies of each letter of objection to planning applications; and how many such letters the Inspectorate received on average per year over the last five years. [138216]

Yvette Cooper: The Planning Inspectorate does not maintain statistics of the volume of letters received from interested persons about appeals but estimates that these number approximately 135,000 per year. The Inspectorate is required by appeal regulations to copy such letters to the appellant and the local planning authority. Nevertheless the Inspectorate recognises that some people will not have easy access to copying or computer facilities and in those cases will happily accept a single letter.

Planning: Advertising

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007 will be introduced in England and Wales. [131167]

Yvette Cooper: The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 came into force on 6 April. They do not apply to Wales.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of households faced with possession actions by social landlords in England in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2004-05. [131000]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the number of social landlord possession actions made, in the county courts of England and Wales in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Social landlord possession actions in England and Wales in 2004-5 and 2005-6

	Claims Issued	*Orders made (suspended and outright orders)*	*Warrants of possession successfully executed*[1]
2004-05	131,812	90,215	24,125
2005-06	127,901	86,141	23,574

[1] Figures are estimates *Source:* Department for Constitutional Affairs.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the revenue from the sale of council houses in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* England was reinvested in new social housing in each of the last 10 years. [132251]

Yvette Cooper: The Department does not collect data on the proportion of the sale of council houses that is reinvested in the provision of new social housing.

In general, on disposal of a council house, for instance through the right to buy, 75 per cent. of the capital receipt comes back to Government for recycling to other areas and investment, the local authority is free to use the remaining 25 per cent. for any capital purpose it sees fit—including the provision of new social housing. Prior to 2004-05, local authorities that had housing attributable debt set aside a proportion (75 per cent. for right to buy sales) of the housing capital receipt to repay their housing debt. That mechanism was replaced in 2004 with the pooling regime, which recovers a proportion (again, 75 per cent. for right to buy sales) of housing capital receipts for investment elsewhere.

Capital investment by central Government in affordable housing for the last 10 years generally (that is, investment in, maintenance of and provision of new affordable housing) has been greater than the value of capital receipts generated by the sale of council housing nationally Since 1997 the Government have consistently invested more in housing than has been received in receipts.

The following table shows:

Spend for Castle Point from 1997-98 to 2005-06 for social rent and low cost home ownership (LCHO) through Housing Corporation Affordable Housing Programme (AHP). The figures provided are for new provision through either new build, acquisition and refurbishment.

The right to buy receipts generated by the disposal of social housing, in Castle Point and in England.

The amount of housing receipts (including RTB sales but not limited to those, this data also includes non-RTB sales of housing assets such as bare land) that were recycled for investment, either through the set-aside regime or through the pooling of housing capital receipts, in Castle Point and in England.

The value of capital investment in Castle Point (local authority stock investment only) and nationally.

£ million

	Castle Point				England		
	RTB Receipts	Set-Aside/ Pooling	LHCOI AHP[1]	LA Capital Investment	RTB receipts	Set-Aside/ Pooling	Capital Investment
1997-98	No data	0.62	0.41	0.07	No data	934	1,894
1998-99	0.51	0.39	0.14	0.23	911	1,085	2,098
1999-2000	1.18	0.89	0.37	0.35	1,374	1,477	2,173
2000-01	1.04	0.78	0.35	0.59	1,793	1,626	2,866
2001-02	1.27	0.99	0.37	1.25	1,566	1,382	3,312
2002-03	1.09	0.86	0.02	1.45	2,210	1,857	3,598
2003-04	1.26	n/a	1.17	1.44	2,936	No data	4,685
2004-05	0.54	0.42	0.96	1.53	2,575	1,718	4,767
2005-06	0.65	0.47	0.26	1.42	1,545	1,076	5,151

Note:
Data pre-1997-98 is available only at disproportionate cost. 2005-06 is the latest year for which we have audited data.
[1] *Source:*
Housing Corporation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of each English local authority's housing stock was social housing in *(a)* 1986, *(b)* 1996 and *(c)* 2006. [137771]

Yvette Cooper: The proportions of social housing for rent as a total of the housing stock by local authority have been tabulated and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House. Social housing is defined as those dwellings that are owned or managed by local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs). Figures are as reported by local authorities and RSLs.

Valuation Office

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government through what data sources the Valuation Office Agency gathers property attribute information for the ZI value significant code. [128556]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Homophobia

9. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to tackle homophobia in football and other sports. [137934]

Mr. Caborn: The Government believe that there is no place for homophobia in sport or in wider society. We fully support the work being taken forward by the National Governing Bodies of sport to ensure that equity exists for all.

The Government's investment into sport, through the Whole Sport Plan process led by Sport England, enables NGB's to produce robust and effective equity plans. These plans aim to tackle homophobia along with other types of discrimination.

The Equality Standard for Sport requires these bodies to demonstrate that they are addressing inequalities and making their sports more accessible to under-represented individuals, groups and communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the London bid team on being awarded the right to host the 2008 International Gay and Lesbian Football Association World Championships. The week long tournament, which will take place at Regents Park in August 2008, will attract teams from all over the world and will have a positive impact on promoting unity and tackling homophobia.

2012 Olympics

10. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in identifying which towns and cities will be selected as official hosts for competitors from individual countries participating in the 2012 Olympics. [137935]

Mr. Caborn: Good progress has been made.

London 2012 has received over 700 applications from facilities across the UK which wish to feature in their Pre-Games Training Camp Guide, and is now carrying out an assessment and selection process.

Facilities will be notified of their inclusion in the Guide at the beginning of 2008—which will be distributed to National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) in August 2008.

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to ensure that the Olympic facilities are constructed from sustainable materials and in an environmentally-friendly fashion. [137650]

Mr. Caborn: The aim of the planning and development of the Olympic Park is to deliver not only the best Olympic Games and Paralympic Games ever, but ensure that they are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable too, leaving a lasting legacy for the Lower Lea Valley and the UK as a whole.

In order to deliver this aim, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), the body charged with delivering the infrastructure for the Games, has been consulting a wide range of stakeholders resulting in a number of commitments published in the ODA's sustainable development strategy in January. These commitments include:

reuse or recycle 90 per cent. of demolition material;

at least 20 per cent. of construction materials from a reused or recycled source;

use 25 per cent. recycled aggregate for permanent venues;

all sites to operate in accordance with the Considerate Constructors scheme and the Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment and Award scheme to manage environmental issues during design, enabling and construction works; and

publication of a Design and Construction Environmental Standard, in conjunction with the Code of Construction Practice in the Park Planning Application.

With the site preparation work already well under way, the ODA is exceeding the first commitment, with over 95 per cent. of 10,827 tonnes of demolition materials from the Olympic Park being recycled or reused so far.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration her Department has given to enabling the public to engage directly with the Olympic authorities. [137936]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are committed to making the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games a UK-wide celebration that engages as many people as possible from around the country in planning and participating in a wide range of events.

In partnership with the other Olympic stakeholders—the Greater London Authority, the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, the British Olympic Association and the Olympic-Delivery Authority—we are pursuing a programme of public engagement including regular events within the five Olympic boroughs to allow communities to discuss arrangements with organisers of the London Games, quarterly public meetings around the country, and an annual Roadshow touring the UK each summer until 2012.

I will also shortly be publishing a document outlining the vision for the legacy of the 2012 Games and explaining the opportunities for everyone to participate.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what roles and responsibilities *(a)* UK Sport and *(b)* the British Olympic Association have in (i) preparing for and (ii) delivering elite success at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. [138223]

Mr. Caborn: UK Sport is the Government's high performance sports agency, investing both Exchequer and lottery funding to prepare and support our Olympic and Paralympic sports and athletes in the years leading up to each Games. It is therefore UK Sport's role to lead the development of high performance sport in this country, and to create the environment in which our sports and athletes can succeed in the build up to London 2012 and beyond.

Through its "no compromise" approach, resources are targeted at those sports and athletes most likely to succeed and win on the world stage. UK Sport is currently planning to invest an average of £100 million every year through to 2012, supporting around 1,500 athletes in 24 Olympic and 19 Paralympic sports. Their leadership role in terms of athlete preparation also extends to the provision of dedicated support services and the development of specialist areas such as its Elite Coach and Technology and Innovation programmes.

To succeed in leading sport to world class success, UK Sport works in partnership with the other Home Country Sports Councils and Institutes, as well as the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the British Paralympic Association.

The role of the BOA is solely focused on delivering success at the Olympic Games (with the British Paralympic Association playing a similar role at the Paralympics). It has the role of preparing Team GB for a unique competitive environment every four years and of maximising the potential of the athletes when they arrive. The BOA is responsible for selecting the athletes that comprise Team GB in conjunction with the governing bodies.

The BOA has no role in the preparation of the athletes in the years building up to an Olympic Games, nor does it have any influence over the way in which funding is invested across the sports through UK Sport's World Class Performance Programmes.

Operationally officials of UK Sport and BOA work together with the National Governing Bodies to ensure that there is a seamless transition between athlete preparation and Games-time preparation. It is vital for the success of our high-performance operations that the work of the two organisations does not cut across or duplicate the other.

Valuable Books and Manuscripts

11. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will give guidance to libraries on arrangements to ensure that valuable books and manuscripts deposited for safekeeping are treated appropriately and kept safe. [137938]

Mr. Lammy: It is the responsibility of individual libraries to care for their collections and safeguard them for future generations. British Standard 5454 establishes a benchmark for the care of archival documents, and a number of Government bodies provide advice and guidance, including the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, the British Library, and the National Archives.

Football Clubs: Governance

12. **Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to meet the Football League authorities to discuss the governance of football clubs. [137939]

Mr. Caborn: I have no current plans to meet with the Football League to discuss the governance of football clubs.

While governance is primarily a matter for football itself, we have been clear that the football authorities and clubs must demonstrate modern, competent governance and financial transparency if they are to protect the future integrity of the game.

Good progress has already been made and I particularly welcome the FL's recent introduction of fit and proper person criteria for directors, and FA requirements around the long-term financial stability of clubs.

Tourism

13. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps her Department has taken to promote tourism in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [137940]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS invested over £50 million in VisitBritain's marketing and support work for the tourism industry in 2006-07. This was part of the £311 million which the wider public sector put into tourism across the UK—more than ever before.

The Department is now working with its partners in the industry, and in regional and local government, to put tourism at the centre of preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and will shortly publish a comprehensive strategy to shape its work to that end.

Gambling

14. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government are taking to protect young and vulnerable people from gambling addiction. [137941]

Mr. Caborn: The Gambling Act 2005 will see the protection of children and vulnerable people placed at the heart of gambling regulation for the first time.

The measures it introduces include a new criminal offence, making it illegal to invite or permit children to gamble, and a requirement for gambling operators to comply with tough social responsibility measures to protect the young and vulnerable from gambling addiction.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which gambling, betting and casino companies *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have (i) met and (ii) spoken to on the telephone since 21 March 2007. [137494]

Mr. Caborn: Since 21 March 2007, departmental Ministers have met representatives of Ladbrokes plc.

Since 21 March 2007 officials have met or spoken on the telephone to employees of a number of companies with interests in the gambling, betting and casino sectors, in most instances in their capacity as representatives of relevant trade associations. Comprehensive records of telephone conversations are not kept. The companies involved include:

Astra Games
Bally Technologies
Barcrest
Bell Fruit Games
Betfair
Coral
Dreamland Leisure Ltd
Electrocoin
Gala Coral Group
Games Media
Harbour Park Amusement Park
HB Leisure
IGT Casino Ltd
Inspired Gaming Group
International Game Technology
Ladbrokes
London Clubs International
Mitchell and Butler's
Mumbles Pier
Paddy Power
Party Gaming
Rank Group
Sky Bet
Stanley Bet International
Stanley Leisure
Talarius
Tote
William Hill.

In addition, officials have attended wider industry events (for example, the annual general meeting of the Bingo Association) which included participants from a number of relevant companies. Officials have also met or spoken to representatives of a small number of independent bookmakers.

Television Call-in Programmes

15. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the regulation of television call-in programmes. [137942]

Mr. Woodward: Responsibility for the regulation of these services rests with the independent regulators, Ofcom and ICSTIS. In response to recent concerns, ICSTIS has set out a range of actions aimed at restoring public trust in premium rate services. In addition, Ofcom is finalising its inquiry into the use of premium rate services in television programming. Separately, ICSTIS and Ofcom are also investigating specific cases and if these expose serious failures of compliance the regulators have the power to impose a range of sanctions on service providers.

Lottery Funding

16. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much lottery funding was awarded to village halls in North Yorkshire in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* each of the last three years for which figures are available. [137943]

Mr. Caborn: Lottery distributors made grants to village and community halls in North Yorkshire of £346,000 in 1997; £136,000 in 2004; £134,000 in 2005 and £277,000 in 2006. Other Lottery grants will have benefited halls with shared community use.

17. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received from the Big Lottery Fund on the impact of Olympic funding proposals on resources available to the BLF. [137944]

Mr. Caborn: Prior to the Secretary of State's announcement on 15 March, she and DCMS officials held discussions with representatives from the Big Lottery Fund including its chair. These were informed by a detailed exchange of information. This dialogue is on-going and the Big Lottery Fund, along with other lottery distributors, will soon be consulted formally on the draft statutory instrument required to enable the transfer of funds.

Betting: Fraud

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many governing bodies have signed up to the code of practice launched in 2006 to tackle betting cheats. [138299]

Mr. Caborn: 13 sporting governing bodies have confirmed that they have signed up to the Integrity in Sports Betting 10 Point Plan.

Bingo

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures she has considered introducing to support the bingo industry. [138221]

Mr. Caborn: The Gambling Act 2005 introduces a range of measures designed to support the bingo industry and other sectors of the gambling industry. These include:

removing the 24 hour rule, which means it is no longer necessary for players to wait a day before being able to play bingo;

removing the membership requirement, though clubs will still be able to operate on a membership basis if they so wish;

doubling the maximum stake permitted on jackpot gaming machines in bingo halls from 50p to £1 and increasing the maximum prize on category C gaming machines from £25 to £35;

allowing rollovers in bingo games, which will create the potential for higher prizes; and

from September 2007, no longer requiring bingo halls to return all stakes as prizes, creating the potential for innovation in the way the game is structured.

Cultural Heritage: Climate Change

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research her Department has conducted into the impact of climate change on the United Kingdom's heritage sites and historic environment. [137991]

Mr. Lammy: My Department financed an UNESCO climate change expert meeting in March 2006, which produced the Strategy to Assist State Parties to Implement Appropriate Management Response, adopted at the 30th World Heritage Committee in 2006. DCMS is also looking to initiate a project, in consultation with its NDPBs, which will record and summarise their current activities to mitigate and support adaptation to climate change and produce an estimate of the Department's and the NDPBs' carbon footprint.

In 2002 English Heritage commissioned the Centre for Sustainable Heritage (CSH) to carry out a scoping study on climate change and the historic environment, published in 2005; and contributed to CSH's stakeholders' dissemination and scientific research report, "Engineering Historic Futures", published in 2007. English Heritage is currently running a series of research projects addressing separate aspects of the climate change agenda, including the assessment of the effect of coastal erosion on historic settlements.

Cultural Heritage: Planning

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what advice her Department gave to the Department for Communities and Local Government on heritage during the drafting of the Planning Bill; [137989]

(2) how many meetings were held between officials in her Department and officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government on heritage during the drafting of the Planning Bill. [137990]

Mr. Lammy: DCMS has been closely involved throughout the development of proposals for a Planning Bill. Officials also worked closely on the drafting of their respective White Papers. DCMS officials will also be members of the inter-departmental Planning Bill steering group.

Cultural Heritage: Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research her Department is conducting into protecting the setting of historic landscapes and heritage sites. [137992]

Mr. Lammy: English Heritage is carrying out a major national programme of historic landscape characterisation that provides the basis for evaluating impacts of development on the setting of historic landscapes. In addition, they are in the process of commissioning a strategic study of setting in the context of the forthcoming Heritage Bill and their developing conservation principles.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if her Department will incorporate means of protecting the setting of historic landscapes and heritage sites into future heritage protection legislation. [137993]

Mr. Lammy: Any future heritage protection legislation to enact the reforms proposed in the White Paper, Heritage Protection for the 21st Century, will contain provisions to manage the protection of registered buildings and archaeological sites through a unified heritage asset consent, to be administered by local planning authorities. It is intended that when considering whether to grant planning permission or heritage asset consent for development or works which affect a registered building or archaeological site the local planning authority (or the Secretary of State, as the case may be) shall be obliged to have special regard

to the desirability of preserving the historic asset or its setting or any features of special architectural, archaeological or historic interest it possesses.

Cultural Heritage: Seas and Oceans

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what advice her Department gave to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on marine heritage during the drafting of the Marine Bill; [137986]

(2) how many meetings were held between officials in her Department and officials in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on marine heritage during the drafting of the Marine Bill. [137988]

Mr. Lammy: DCMS has been closely involved throughout the development of proposals for a Marine Bill and the preparation of the Marine Bill consultation document. Officials also worked closely on the drafting of their respective White Papers. DCMS officials are also members of DEFRA's inter-departmental Marine Bill steering group.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136856]

Mr. Lammy: A search of DCMS' ministerial diaries revealed no such engagements for current Ministers since their arrival in the Department. To search diaries of former DCMS Ministers for the period 1997 to 2006 would incur disproportionate cost. We have received nil returns from the Department's officials.

Gambling: Legislation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received on the impact on local authorities of the Gambling Act 2005; and if she will make a statement. [138088]

Mr. Caborn: The Department has worked closely with local authorities and their representative bodies on the implementation of the Gambling Act. We have received many representations from local authorities in this context.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her most recent estimate is of the cost to business of implementing the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005. [138089]

Mr. Caborn: The estimated costs to business were set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which was published in April 2005 with the Gambling Act 2005. In addition, we prepare impact assessments for each element of the secondary legislation required to implement the Gambling Act 2005 and these are published with the related Explanatory Memorandum document on the Office for Public Sector Information website and separately in the Better Regulation section of the Department's website www.culture.gov.uk.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will bring forward proposals for an extension to the deadline for compliance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 to ensure that businesses do not have to make physical changes to premises until after peak season 2007. [138090]

Mr. Caborn: It remains the Government's intention to bring the Gambling Act 2005 fully into force on 1 September 2007.

Sports: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what resources the Government have provided to the Sport for All initiative; and what resources have been allocated for the initiative in each of the next three years [138147]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are not aware of a current initiative called Sport for All. Therefore the Government have provided no resources and have no plans to provide any resources to this initiative. However, "Sport for All" was the equivalent of the "brand name" for The Sports Council before the Sport England brand was launched in 1999.

PRIME MINISTER

European Union: Conferences

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer will accompany him to the EU Summit in June. [138426]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the press briefing given by my official spokesman on 17 May 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website http://pm.gov.uk/output/Page11737.asp, and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

European Union: Treaties

Mr. Cash: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to sign a European Treaty before he leaves Office. [138326]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe gave to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 779W.

Ministerial Responsibility

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister which Minister would take lead responsibility for the operation of Government in the event of the Prime Minister's unforeseen incapacity; and, in the absence of that Minister, which Minister would then take responsibility. [138430]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 9 December 2003, *Official Report*, column 374W.

Treasury

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on the future of the Treasury drawn up by Lord Birt in 2005. [137477]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 20 January 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1037-8W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Smoking

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans she has to implement regulations on the requirement of displaying no smoking notices in relation to the entrance to No. 10 Downing Street; and if she will make a statement. [138523]

Hilary Armstrong: The Downing Street complex forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office estate. From 1 July 2007, the Cabinet Office intends to fully comply with the requirement of the Health Bill 2006 for displaying no smoking notices.

Charities: Cultural Heritage

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cultural and heritage organisations were registered as charities in the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [137980]

Edward Miliband: This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the Government department responsible for the regulation of charities in England and Wales. The chief executive of the Charity Commission will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library. Charity law and regulation in Scotland and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter, and is the responsibility of the relevant Parliament and Ministers.

Charities: Finance

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the likely effect on third sector organisations of the reallocation of lottery funding to pay for the 2012 Olympics. [138054]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 795W.

Department of Health: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on Department of Health: Standards, who the members are of the capability review group of the Department of Health. [137272]

Hilary Armstrong: The members of the Department of Health Capability Review team are:

Margaret Aldred, Director General, Cabinet Office; Mark Lowcock, Director General, Department for International Development; Rob Whiteman, Chief Executive, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham; Keith Satchell, former Group Chief Executive, Friends Provident plc; Mike Clasper, Non Executive Director, ITV plc and former Chief Executive, BAA plc.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in the Cabinet Office funded by the public purse are classified as people without posts. [137084]

Hilary Armstrong: There are 20 Cabinet Office staff who are technically between posts as their positions have been abolished, and are thus members of the Department's Priority Talent Pool (PTP). All of these are engaged in either their existing role or on project work until a new permanent position is identified.

Departments: Paper

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of waste paper from 10 Downing street has been recycled in each of the last 10 years. [137147]

Edward Miliband: The Downing street complex forms part of the Cabinet Office estate. Since the Cabinet Office began recording comprehensive waste data in 2002-03, 100 per cent. of waste paper generated is recycled. This is achieved through encouraging Cabinet Office staff to use the recycling facilities provided. In addition, the Cabinet Office materials recovery facility is able to capture and recycle any paper that is placed in general waste bins.

Departments: Training

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which firms and external consultants the Cabinet Office has used for *(a)* anti-bullying training and *(b)* diversity awareness training in the last 12 months; [137081]

(2) how much the Cabinet Office spent on *(a)* anti-bullying training and *(b)* diversity awareness training in the last year for which figures are available. [137082]

Hilary Armstrong: In the last 12 months, the following external firms have been used by the Cabinet Office to raise awareness of diversity, which includes bullying and harassment:

Berkshire Consultancy Ltd

Symetra Ltd.

In the last 12 months Cabinet Office has spent £32,000 in raising awareness of diversity, including bullying and harassment.

Members: Correspondence

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when she expects the Minister for the Third Sector to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 4 April 2007. [138504]

Edward Miliband: I replied to the hon. Member on 17 May 2007.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: West Bromwich

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to tackle alcohol misuse in West Bromwich East constituency. [136715]

Caroline Flint: The Government are committed to tackling alcohol misuse and reducing alcohol related harms and this was reaffirmed in the "Choosing Health" White Paper. The "Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England" was published in March 2004 and the Department subsequently published "Alcohol Misuse Interventions—Guidance on Developing a Local Programme of Improvements" in November 2005, to support local delivery of alcohol interventions.

Currently, some £217 million is being spent by primary care trusts (PCTs) on alcohol treatment; and an additional £15 million has been allocated to PCTs to improve alcohol interventions from 2007-08 onwards. NHS West Midlands reports that Sandwell PCT will be investing nearly £1 million over the next three years to double their capacity in alcohol counselling services as part of their local area agreement stretch target. Sandwell PCT also has extensive programmes in place for prevention of alcohol related ill health and crime.

Antibiotics

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the *(a)* total consumption of antibiotics in the NHS and *(b)* net cost to the NHS of prescribing antibiotics in each year since 1997. [135753]

Caroline Flint: Most antibiotics are classified under sections 5.1, 11.3.1 and 13.10.1 of the British National Formulary. Information on antibiotics dispensed in the community in England is provided in the table on this basis.

	Prescription items (thousand)	*Net ingredient cost (£000)*
1997	51,686.3	185,393.2
1998	47,655.0	176,280.7
1999	43,548.9	190,385.6
2000	41,728.2	185,233.6
2001	42,840.2	176,460.3
2002	41,678.3	177,952.9
2003	42,446.0	182,721.9
2004	41,335.5	184,715.0
2005	41,916.8	174,949.3
2006	41,639.1	184,941.5

Source: Prescription Cost Analysis system

The national health service also makes considerable use of antibiotics (systemic antibacterials) in hospitals. The estimated cost for the years available is shown in the table.

	Estimated cost (£000)
2001	186,592.7
2002	203,664.8
2003	221,229.1
2004	236,305.6
2005	228,304.0

Source: IMS HEALTH: Hospital Pharmacy Audit

Anti-depressants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for anti-depressants were dispensed in the community in each year since 1997; and how many of those were dispensed to children in each year. [135809]

Caroline Flint: Anti-depressant drugs are classified under section 4.3 of the British National Formulary and the information in the following table is provided on this basis. Estimated figures are based on a sample of 1 in 20 prescriptions and have been grossed up to reflect the population totals and rounded.

	BNF 4.3 -prescription items dispensed (thousand)	*Estimate of prescription items dispensed for children (thousand)*	*Percentage dispensed to children*
1997	16,822.6	88	0.5
1998	18,424.5	84	0.5
1999	20,108.1	83	0.4
2000	22,021.8	95	0.4
2001	24,342.7	110	0.5
2002	26,329.3	120	0.5
2003	27,658.0	110	0.4
2004	28,995.5	94	0.3
2005	29,389.9	110	0.4
2006	31,038.0	110	0.4

Source: Prescription cost analysis system.

Asthma

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she is taking to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions for asthma; [138282]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure that all patients with asthma have a written personal action plan; [138283]

(3) if she will estimate the savings which would accrue to the NHS if primary care trusts with the highest rates of hospital admissions for asthma were to reduce their admissions to the average rate. [138292]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The new general medical services contract was launched in February 2003. The contract includes a specific "quality indicator" for treatment and care of people with asthma; based on:

a register of patients diagnosed with, and prescribed drugs for, asthma;

a record of patients aged eight years and over where diagnosis confirmed by spirometry or peak flow measurement; and

a record of asthma review within past 15 months.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure that patients living with asthma are offered care plans and regular reviews.

I have no plans to estimate the possible savings to the national health service from such a proposed reduction in the admission rates for asthma.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on *(a)* funding and *(b)* availability of Cetuximab for people diagnosed with metastatic colorectal cancer; [136789]

(2) what guidance she has issued to primary care trusts on providing funding for the use of the drug Cetuximab in cases of metastatic colorectal cancer. [136790]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On 24 January 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued guidance to the national health service on the use of cetuximab for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer.

NICE'S guidance did not recommend cetuximab as a treatment option for metastatic colorectal cancer. However, the guidance states that patients who were receiving cetuximab should have the option to continue to do so until they and their consultants decide that it is the right time to stop treatment.

It will be for individual primary care trusts to decide whether to fund cetuximab for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer in the light of NICE'S recommendations.

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in reducing waiting times for the treatment of *(a)* cancer and *(b)* heart disease; and what the average waiting time is for treatment of each condition in (i) Newcastle Primary Care Trust area, (ii) North Tyneside Primary Care Trust area and (iii) England. [135648]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over the past year, the national health service has made excellent progress on cancer waiting times with full achievement of both the 31-day target and the 62-day target. In quarter 3, 2006-07, performance nationally against these standards was 99.6 per cent. and 96.3 per cent. respectively. For the same period, the performance of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne hospitals NHS trust against these targets was 99.6 per cent. and 96.1 per cent. respectively.

Provisional data at 31 March 2007 indicate that 5,967 people in England were waiting for a heart operation, none of whom were waiting over three months. 136 of these were waiting for treatment at the Newcastle-upon-Tyne hospitals NHS trust.

Carers: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent by each local authority in England to provide services for carers in the last year for which figures are available. [137148]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A table showing the funds allocated to councils in the carers grant in 2006-07 and 2007-08 has been placed in the Library.

The grant is no longer ring-fenced and the Department does not collect data about how much each council spends supporting carers. However, councils do have a duty to support them and they should be taking carers' needs into account when planning and commissioning all services.

Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish data relating to cases of *Clostridium difficile* in all those aged two years and over for each NHS trust in England; and for what reasons she does not plan to include such cases of *Clostridium difficile* in the *Clostridium difficile* mandatory surveillance system. [135884]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) publishes data regarding the mandatory surveillance scheme for *Clostridium difficile* associated disease (CDAD) on its' website: www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press_releases/2007/070426_clostridium_mrsa.htm. The scheme began in January 2004 and up until 31 March 2007 all acute NHS trusts had to report all cases of CDAD for patients aged 65 years and over.

Since 1 April 2007 it is mandatory for all acute NHS trusts to report all cases of CDAD in all patients aged two years and over. HPA plan to publish first quarter data (1 April-30 June 2007) on all cases of CDAD in patients aged two years and over, in October 2007.

Dental Services: West Midlands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists were employed in *(a)* West Bromwich East constituency and *(b)* the West Midlands region in each of the last three years. [136711]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Numbers of national health service dentists in West Bromwich East constituency and the former Birmingham and the Black Country strategic health authority (SHA) from 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006 are available in annex E and G of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006. The report is available in the Library and online at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Information on the dental work force under the new dental contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006 is published every quarter by The Information Centre for health and social care. These data are not comparable with the historical data prior to this date.

The latest data available are in annex G (number of dentists), within annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Quarter 3:31 December 2006 report.

Data are only available at SHA and primary care trust level. To provide these data at constituency level area would incur disproportionate cost. The report is available in the Library and online at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/dental06q3/Quarterly%20Publication%20Q3%202006-7%20Annex%203.xls

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of expenditure by her Department in each of the Government office regions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [116719]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has two executive agencies.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

The MHRA's total spend for the financial year 2005-06 was £74.8 million. This is not split into regions as the MHRA has no regional offices. The MHRA's accounts are published annually and the latest covering the financial year 2005-06 was published in October 2006 and can be accessed online through the following link:

www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&useSecondary=true&ssDocName=CON2025135&ssTargetNodeId=382

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA)

This information is not collected. PASA does not hold records of spend in each of the Government regions.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many ministerial red boxes her Department bought in each of the last five years; and how much each cost; [134948]

(2) what tendering process is used to decide which company supplies ministerial red boxes to her Department. [134949]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The Department orders red boxes from Banner Business Supplies as and when they are needed. Ministerial boxes are used by successive Ministers over many years.

Departments: Public Appointments

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what appointments to public positions Ministers have made of persons employed by Secure Healthcare in each of the last five years. [136738]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On 1 April 2007, Julie Dent, the Chair of Secure Healthcare, was appointed Chair of the London Probation Service.

Diabetes: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1601W, on diabetes: screening, how many people offered retinopathy screening were screened for diabetic retinopathy in *(a)* each year since 2003-04 and *(b)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [137366]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the number of people with diabetes receiving screening for diabetic retinopathy, broken down by years.

	Number of people with diabetes receiving screening for diabetic retinopathy[1]
2003-04	[2]753,997
2004-05	1,076,388
2005-06	1,232,043

[1] Data from local delivery plans returns.
[2] Data for year 2003-04 was an incomplete return.

Latest data for December 2006 shows that 1,203,639 people with diabetes received screening for diabetic retinopathy in the previous 12 months.

Diamorphine

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diamorphine prescriptions were dispensed in the community in each year since 1997. [135810]

Caroline Flint: Information on the number of prescription items for diamorphine dispensed in the community in England is in the following table.

	Diamorphine—number of prescription items (thousand)
1997	116.5
1998	114.6
1999	105.9
2000	99.3
2001	95.9
2002	96.0
2003	98.6
2004	102.9
2005	60.8
2006	65.6

Source: Prescription Cost Analysis system

Doctors: Training

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* estimate she has made of the impact on the number of doctors being trained and *(b)* assessment she has made of the impact on the training given to those who secure places on the Modernising Medical Careers programme. [136478]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We believe there will be more doctors in training in 2007 than previously. Training will be enhanced under Modernising Medical Careers as it will provide structured programmes of training to reflect the needs of patients and the national health service.

Drugs: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have *(a)* been admitted to hospital and *(b)* died as a result of taking counterfeit medicines in each of the last 10 years. [134100]

Caroline Flint: The Department holds no statistics which record hospital admissions or deaths from taking counterfeit medicines. However, the Medicines and

Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, which has responsibility for investigating reports of counterfeit medicines, has found no evidence of any deaths in the United Kingdom caused by counterfeit medicines.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the £54.5 million spending announced for capacity building purposes in the field of drug treatment has been allocated to buildings used for the treatment of young people. [121176]

Caroline Flint: The national panel received 76 bids for the additional capital funding agreed by the Department to improve the capacity and outcomes of inpatient and residential rehabilitation services. There were comparatively few bids submitted that were specifically for young people and, of these, none were scored highly enough to be awarded funding against the published criteria.

Gastroenteritis

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of rotavirus gastroenteritis were recorded in each primary care trust in England in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [138132]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not hold this information centrally.

Health Services: Asylum

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account was taken of the denial of secondary healthcare to refused asylum seekers in the Department's report "Human Rights in Healthcare—A Framework for Local Action"; and if she will make a statement. [136398]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The recent Department publication "Human Rights in Healthcare—A Framework for Local Action" is intended to assist national health service trusts to develop and apply human rights based approaches in their organisations in order to provide better services for everyone. It is not a source of legal advice or guidance on specific issues.

Health Services: Wandsworth Prison

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what tender process was used to award the contract to provide healthcare services at HM Prison Wandsworth to Secure Healthcare; what the cost of the contract is expected to be; what *(a)* outcome measures and *(b)* performance indicators the contract provides; and if she will make a statement. [136747]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for local primary care trusts (PCTs) in conjunction with other stakeholders, to make assessments of current and future health needs, including prison health care, and to commission services accordingly. Therefore the tendering process is a matter for Wandsworth PCT.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she plans to take to monitor the accuracy of data provided by Secure Healthcare under the contract to provide healthcare services at HM Prison Wandsworth; and if she will make a statement. [136748]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for local primary care trusts (PCTs) in conjunction with other stakeholders to monitor data provided under contract to provide health care services at HMP Wandsworth. Therefore the monitoring of data for health care services at HMP Wandsworth will be a matter for Wandsworth PCT.

Heart Diseases: Screening

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the United Kingdom National Screening Committee made at its meeting in March 2007 on screening for men aged 65 for abdominal aortic aneurysms. [137017]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The UK National Screening Committee (NSC) has advised that screening for men aged 65 for abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) can be recommended in principle subject to further work, particularly on the appropriate configuration of treatment services and the provision for men to make an informed choice about whether to undergo screening. At its meeting in March 2007 the NSC considered further work undertaken by the AAA Screening Working Group. More detailed work will now be undertaken on the practical issues that would be involved in implementation.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish plans on the provision of incontinence and stoma appliances; and if she will make a statement. [136713]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We will consider whether to publish plans on the provision of incontinence and stoma appliances after we have evaluated responses to the consultation relating to Part IX of the Drug Tariff, which closed on 2 April.

Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what incentives exist in the Quality Outcomes framework of the new General Medical Services contract to offer physical health checks and physical health promotion activities to patients with a mental health problem; and if she will make a statement. [136873]

Andy Burnham: Under the Quality and Outcomes Framework, there are 23 points available in the mental health indicator set for a health review. This review should include evidence that the patient has been offered routine health promotion and prevention advice appropriate to their age, gender and health status.

Mental Health Services: Essex

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding the North Essex Mental Health Partnership Trust received from *(a)* her Department and *(b)* local primary care trusts in each of the last five financial years. [136603]

Andy Burnham: National health service trusts do not normally receive funding from the Department, but receive income for the provision of services from commissioners, principally from primary care trusts (PCTS).

In 2001-02, the trust received most of its income from health authorities and primary care groups but did not receive income from PCTs.

The following table shows data for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06, which is the latest year for which information is available.

Prior to 2004-05, amounts shown may not be all of the income from the Department or from PCTs because not all income was analysed in this way.

North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

£000

	Income from Department of Health	*Income from PCTs*
2001-02	0	0
2002-03	0	64,371
2003-04	0	66,376
2004-05	118	76,545
2005-06	244	87,284

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have received funding for dealing with prisoners with psychiatric and mental health problems; how much they have received; how they have spent the money; how many prisoner patients have received treatment as a consequence; and if she will make a statement. [136369]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Mental health services have been a key part of the Government's recent reforms of health services in prisons, and the Department is now investing over £20 million a year in national health service mental health in-reach services for prisoners.

All primary care trusts with prisons in their locality receive a proportion of this funding as part of their allocation for providing healthcare services to prisoners.

There are now 102 community mental health teams working within prisons, with some 360 extra staff employed. Since 2006, every prison in England and Wales has had access to these services. Information on how many prisoners receive these services is not collected centrally.

This year, the Department will make an additional £4 million available to aid further improvements to mental health in-reach and child and adolescent mental health services, based on a national needs assessment.

Midwives

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many newly-trained midwives *(a)* obtained and *(b)* did not obtain a job in midwifery within six months of graduating in each year since 1995. [136505]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department started collecting data from each strategic health authority (SHA) on the employment prospects of health care graduates in their area, for the first time in 2006.

The most recent SHA returns indicate that 20.1 per cent. of midwifery graduates who graduated between May and September 2006 are estimated not to have found work nationally. This ranges from 44.2 per cent. in Yorks and Humber to 0 per cent. in the north-east.

NHS Spine Project

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a privacy impact assessment *(a)* has been produced and *(b)* is planned for the NHS spine project. [112572]

Caroline Flint: No. We do not believe that such an assessment would serve any useful purpose at this stage of the project.

The aim of a privacy impact assessment is to ensure that privacy is considered at every stage of a project involving the handling of information, and that action is taken to mitigate against identified risks to the privacy of individuals. While this is clearly a useful tool for many projects where these matters might otherwise be neglected, the need to safeguard privacy and confidentiality is a necessary deliverable of any health record system, and the management of risk in this area has been a core deliverable of the national health service care records service (the spine project).

The security safeguards around access to patient data held within the new care records will provide an unprecedented level of assurance compared with existing electronic and paper systems. The Department has also produced what we believe is the most comprehensive privacy statement of any public service in the form of the NHS care record guarantee for England, setting out 12 commitments the NHS makes to patients in order to protect their confidentiality.

The Information Commissioner has confirmed that; properly deployed, the new systems have the potential to allow the NHS to better meet the various informational and privacy challenges which it faces than the systems currently in existence, and that he is content with the general approach being taken with the care records service.

NHS: Drugs

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost of unused medications was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region in the last 12 months. [135670]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Wirral South the (Ben Chapman) on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 606W.

NHS: Natural Gas

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency has held discussions with Gazprom on the supply of gas to parts of the NHS. [134412]

Andy Burnham: The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency's energy team has met with Gazprom Marketing and Trading Limited to discuss the requirements of the framework agreement for the supply of gas to large NHS hospital sites.

NHS: Public Appointments

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of the National Director for Health and Work's team have been appointed. [136378]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As the National Director for Health and Work, Dame Carol Black has two staff members who provide direct support to her.

In this role, Dame Carol also works closely with policy staff from the Department, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Health and Safety Executive involved in the Government's Health, Work and Well-being Strategy.

Nurses

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1140W, on nurses, whether she has taken steps to encourage more men to work as nurses, midwives and health visiting staff; how much has been spent advertising jobs in publications likely to reach a predominantly male audience; whether targets are in place for the recruitment of male employees; whether specific training courses are offered only to male employees; whether any jobs have been advertised under section 47(1a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975; and if she will make a statement on the number of male nursing staff working in the national health service. [135533]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Careers in the national health service are promoted by NHS Careers. The service consists of a telephone and email helpline, website, literature and supporting services for NHS employers, schools, colleges and careers advisors. Case studies of real life stories featured by NHS Careers show both men and women and reflect the diversity of the NHS workforce.

Advertising jobs is a matter for local employers. However, employers are encouraged to use NHS jobs, an on-line system for advertising vacancies in the NHS, which is both cost effective and accessible. NHS jobs has 7,129 new vacancies from NHS employers across England and Wales.

There are no targets for the recruitment of male employees; local organisations are responsible for planning and recruiting their workforce to meet the health service needs of their local population. However, workforce census figures in the following table show a growing trend in the number of qualified male nurses, health visitors and midwives between 2004 and 2006.

The Department does not collect information on specific training courses.

Qualified Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff - broken down by gender 2004-06

2006	Male	Female	Unknown	Percentage [1]Male	Percentage [1]Female
All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	38,242	304,942	31,354	11.1	88.9
Nurse consultant	136	654	—	17.2	82.8
Modern matron	204	1,767	11	10.4	89.6
Manager	1,303	5,707	148	18.6	81.4
Registered nurse—Children	531	11,710	955	4.3	95.7
Registered midwife	176	22,937	1,356	0.8	99.2
Health visitor	176	11,507	351	1.5	98.5
District nurse (1st level)	418	9,239	351	4.3	95.7
District nurse (2nd level)	65	1,101	96	5.6	94.4
School nurse	9	1,100	20	0.8	99.2
Other 1st level[2]	34,283	229,596	26,690	13.0	87.0
Other 2nd level[2]	921	9,279	1,375	9.0	91.0

2005	Male	Female	Unknown	Percentage [1]Male	Percentage [1]Female
All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	37,820	306,857	36,580	11.0	89.0
Nurse consultant	118	605	1	16.3	83.7
Modern matron	173	1,427	6	10.8	89.2
Manager	1,365	5,639	92	19.5	80.5
Registered nurse—Children	530	11,844	989	4.3	95.7
Registered midwife	142	23,003	1,663	0.6	99.4
Health visitor	173	12,191	454	1.4	98.6
District nurse (1st level)	434	10,148	340	4.1	95.9
District nurse (2nd level)	49	973	123	4.8	95.2
School nurse	6	930	7	0.6	99.4
Other 1st level[2]	33,700	229,349	28,705	12.8	87.2
Other 2nd level[2]	1,130	10,748	1,774	9.5	90.5

2004	Male	Female	Unknown	Percentage [1]Male	Percentage [1]Female
All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	36,573	300,042	38,756	10.9	89.1
Nurse consultant	97	533	1	15.4	84.6
Modern matron	—	—	—	—	—
Manager	1,499	6,457	52	18.8	81.2
Registered nurse—Children	555	12,296	873	4.3	95.7
Registered midwife	100	22,830	1,914	0.4	99.6
Health visitor	173	12,517	613	1.4	98.6
District nurse (1st level)	425	10,646	664	3.8	96.2
District nurse (2nd level)	43	944	105	4.4	95.6
School nurse	1	845	10	0.1	99.9
Other 1st level[2]	32,459	220,684	29,513	12.8	87.2
Other 2nd level[2]	1,221	12,290	2,925	9.0	91.0

Qualified Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff—broken down by gender 2004-06.

The percentage of all qualified male nurses, health visitors and midwives has increased from 10.9 per cent. in 2004 to 11.1 per cent. in 2006.

The number of male nurse consultants has increased from 97 in 2004 to 136 in 2006.

The number of male registered midwives has increased from 100 in 2004 to 176 in 2006.

The number of male 1st level nurses has increased from 32,459 in 2004 to 34,283 in 2006.

Obesity: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she plans to allocate any points in the quality and outcomes framework of the General Medical Services contract to encourage general practitioners *(a)* to provide advice on weight management and *(b)* to refer patients to weight management services; [131780]

(2) whether she plans to allocate more points to the management of obesity in the new quality and outcomes framework of the General Medical Services contract. [131781]

Caroline Flint: Currently there are eight points available in the quality and outcomes framework (QOF) which measures the body mass index of patients as the indicator in the obesity clinical domain. There are currently no plans to increase the number of points for the obesity indicator in QOF or to include additional incentives in QOF for advice on weight management or referral to weight management services. However, continuous improvement is an underpinning concept of the current contractual arrangements with general practitioners and we will keep under review the quality indicators within the QOF.

Plastic Surgery

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been received by the Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency about dermal fillers in the last five years; and what investigations have been undertaken by the agency as a result. [117964]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has received 24 incident reports within the last five years involving dermal fillers. The agency assesses and investigates each adverse incident report on a case by case basis and issues appropriate advice as necessary to the health service. Most of the reports received referred to the development of nodules or lumps in the vicinity of the injections, which is a known complication associated with dermal fillers. From an analysis of these reports, MHRA could not identify any trends for any particular product.

Pregnancy: Screening

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will bring forward legislation to ban the use of tests which can tell an unborn baby's gender at six weeks; what recent representations she has received on such tests; and if she will make a statement. [136801]

Caroline Flint: Prospective parents may desire to know the sex of a foetus for a variety of reasons. However, antenatal sexing of the foetus is not a routine part of antenatal care nor has the Department issued any guidance to hospitals on whether or not parents should be told the sex of their baby. The Government recognise that there is concern that the availability of information about the sex of their foetus could lead some women to seek an abortion if the foetus is of a particular sex. However, there is no evidence that this is happening in the United Kingdom. The grounds on which abortion may lawfully be carried out are set out in the Abortion Act 1967 (as amended). These do not include foetal sex alone. Although the Government are aware of companies offering foetal sex identification through genetic tests they have received no recent representations relating to this issue.

The availability of tests on samples collected privately also raises important questions of privacy. The Human Tissue Act 2004 makes it an offence to use a person's tissue for DNA analysis without their consent. The Government continue to keep the developing area of genetic tests under review but have no current plans to bring forward further legislation in this area.

Ritalin: Children

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were prescribed ritalin in each of the last five years; and what evidence has been reported of its *(a)* utility and *(b)* side effects. [126895]

Caroline Flint: Information on the number of children prescribed ritalin is not collected. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has recommended that drug treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) should only be initiated by an appropriately qualified health care professional with expertise in ADHD and should be based on a comprehensive assessment and diagnosis. Continued prescribing and monitoring of drug treatment may be performed by general practitioners, under shared care arrangements. Drug therapy should only be part of a comprehensive treatment programme that includes advice and support to parents and teachers.

Information provided by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on the number of reported adverse reactions to ritalin for the last 10 years is in the following table.

Year received by the MHRA	*Number of reports of adverse reactions to ritalin*
1997	22
1989	23
1999	28
2000	39
2001	50
2002	59
2003	102
2004	65
2005	90
2006	95

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust: Surgery

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of people in Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust area waited more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* a year for an NHS operation in the most recent year for which figures are available. [136705]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, data on the number and percentage of finished admission episodes for selected admission methods (valid waiting list and booked cases) for an operation by time waited grouping are shown in the following table. The data relate to treatment provided by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and are for 2005-06.

Time waited grouping	*Number of finished admission episodes*	*Percentage of finished admission episodes*
Up to three months	33,127	82.0
Over three to six months	5,777	14.3
Over six months to one year	1,352	3.3
Over one year	158	0.4
Total	40,414	100.0

Notes:
1. Admission Methods '11 Elective: from waiting list' and '12 Elective: booked'
2. OPCS4.2 main operative procedure codes between A01 and X59
3. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
4. The time waited groupings are mutually exclusive. To calculate the total or percentage for e.g. those waiting over three months, the values for 'Over three to six months', 'Over six months to one year' and 'Over one year' should be added together.
5. A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
6. The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
7. Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.
8. HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust: Nurses

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many epilepsy specialist nurses were employed by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last three years. [136709]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Government have supported the development of a range of specialist roles within nursing. However, it is for local trusts to deploy specialist nurses in accordance with their local needs and to determine the skill mix within the nursing work force including specialist epilepsy nurses.

Social Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department will set a direction of travel for the social care strategy referred to in paragraph 4.9 of her Department's 2007-08 business plan, published on 30 March; and if she will make a statement. [135868]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Social care is currently facing a number of major challenges, particularly around demographic change and rising public expectations. As a result, the Chancellor announced in the pre-Budget report 2006 that the Treasury would be assessing proposals for the future of social care put forward by Derek Wanless for the King's Fund, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and others. The criteria for assessing these proposals are whether they are affordable, whether they are consistent with progressive universalism and whether they promote independence, dignity, well-being and control. The Treasury is currently assessing the proposals and the Department will continue to work with them to take this work forward and consider the strategic direction of social care.

Strokes: Health Services

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Director for Heart Disease and Stroke will be responsible for implementing the National Stroke Strategy for England; and whether additional financial resources will be allocated to the strategy. [136526]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Director for Heart Disease and Stroke assumed clinical leadership for stroke in February 2006. He provides the clinical direction and will lead the development of the National Stroke Strategy, but the national health service and social care services will have the responsibility for delivering the stroke strategy.

The Department will shortly be launching a wide-ranging consultation on the strategy. The strategy's further development will take into account the responses to the consultation. It is not possible at this stage to estimate the resource implications of the strategy in its final form.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Interpreters

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people were translating through the National Agreement on arrangements for the use of interpreters, translators and language services professionals in investigations and proceedings within the Criminal Justice System *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which the figure is available. [138224]

Ms Harman: The information requested is not collected centrally by criminal justice agencies. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Her Majesty's Courts Service is giving consideration to the routine collection of data relating to interpreting and translation services used in court.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what support her Department is providing to the National Register of Public Service Interpreters through the National Agreement on arrangements for the use of interpreters, translators and language services professionals in investigations and proceedings within the Criminal Justice System. [138225]

Ms Harman: The Ministry of Justice, among other agencies involved in the criminal justice system, has reaffirmed, through the revised National Agreement issued in January this year, that the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) is the preferred source of interpreters for non-English speaking defendants and witnesses in criminal investigations and proceedings. All Crown and magistrates' courts that require it have licensed access to the NRPSI directory of interpreters and have been directed that the standard requirement is to use this list wherever possible.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps her Department plans to take to ensure the availability of interpreters and translators for individuals of all ethnic backgrounds taking part in court proceedings in rural areas. [138169]

Ms Harman: The Office for Criminal Justice Reform is leading a project to improve the supply of suitable, security-checked interpreters across the whole criminal justice system. The measures under consideration include the increased use of technology, such as video conferencing and increasing the pool of qualified interpreters through targeted training and targeted advertising campaigns. In January this year the OCJR issued a revised National Agreement on Arrangements for the use of Interpreters and Translators in the criminal justice system, to help ensure that only suitably qualified interpreters and translators are used in criminal proceedings. I have placed a copy of the Agreement in the Library.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what percentage of interpreters employed by the courts in the last period for which figures are available were sourced from the recommended register of the National Register of Public Service Interpreters. [138286]

Ms Harman: The information requested is not collected centrally or as a matter of routine by the courts. Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) is giving consideration to the routine collection of data relating to interpreting and translation services used in court.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the cost to her Department is for each interpreter employed *(a)* directly by her Department, *(b)* through outsourcing arrangements and *(c)* through agencies. [138168]

Ms Harman: Interpreters employed to interpret in court proceedings are paid in accordance with the Terms and Conditions for Individuals providing Face-to-Face Interpretation Services, which were introduced on 28 February 2007 and can be located on the website of the Home Office Commercial Directorate. There are no outsourcing arrangements for interpreter provision operating within the courts at this time.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much the Department for Constitutional Affairs spent on *(a)* interpreters and *(b)* translators in each of the last 10 years. [138231]

Ms Harman: Information on how much the Department for Constitutional Affairs spent on interpreters and translators in each of the last 10 years can be provided only by gathering information held locally. This would take longer than the time available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people were employed as *(a)* interpreters and *(b)* translators by the Department for Constitutional Affairs in each of the last 10 years. [138232]

Ms Harman: The information requested is not collected centrally by the agencies of the Department for Constitutional Affairs (now part of the Ministry of Justice). Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Contact Orders

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when she plans to bring into force those sections of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 which provide for more sanctions to be available to the courts when a contact order is not complied with. [137608]

Ms Harman: The Government expect that provisions in Part 1 of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 in relation to family assistance orders and risk assessments will be implemented from October 2007. The timetable for the implementation of the remaining provisions of part 1 of the Act, including the provisions relating to enforcement of contact orders, is currently under consideration. The Government will be making a written ministerial statement shortly outlining the timetable for implementation of the remaining provisions in Part 1 of the Act.

Custodial Treatment: Courts

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 75W, on custodial treatment: courts, what the cost of scoping studies has been since 1 January 2007. [137573]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 1 January NOMS has paid £120,000 (excluding VAT) to a single contractor. This does not include any costs for scoping studies.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much the Department for Constitutional Affairs spent on consultancy and professional services in 2005-06. [138233]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 2005-06, the Department for Constitutional Affairs spent £15.6 million—0.43 per cent. of its budget on consultancy. This included expenditure by its executive agencies as follows:

	£
DCA HQ	10.1 million
Her Majesty's Courts Service	5.0 million
Tribunals Service	0.4 million
Public Guardianship Office	53,000

While details of expenditure on other professional services were held by individual business managers, they were not collected centrally for this period. The Department for Constitutional Affairs bought a range of such services across its many business areas. An exercise to identify and collate such expenditure could be conducted only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Costs

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the estimated total cost is of establishing the Ministry of Justice. [136837]

Vera Baird: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 8 May 2007 to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois), *Official Report*, column 129W, which provides the estimated total cost of establishing the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the cost has been of establishing the Ministry of Justice. [137716]

Vera Baird: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 8 May 2007 to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois), *Official Report*, column 129W, which provides the estimated total cost of establishing the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much the formation of the Ministry of Justice *(a)* cost the Department for Constitutional Affairs and *(b)* has cost the Ministry of Justice. [138288]

Vera Baird: I refer the hon. Member to the answer to the hon. Member for Rayleigh, of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 129W, which provides the estimated total cost of establishing the Ministry of Justice.

Departments: Netmums Website

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether her Department has provided funding for the netmums website. [138392]

Ms Harman: My Department has not provided funding to the netmums website.

Electoral Register

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will make a statement on progress towards the Co-ordinated Online Register of Electors. [137629]

Bridget Prentice: The first phase of the CORE project is almost complete and all local authorities are now able to output their electoral register data in a consistent format. Planning work for the second phase is under way, and the CORE team is now considering options for developing the CORE information system.

The operational provider of the CORE services, the CORE keeper, has not yet been appointed and the Ministry of Justice is currently in discussion with the Electoral Commission about the role. In parallel, the Ministry is considering other suitable organisations in the event that the Electoral Commission decides not to take on the role of CORE keeper.

After the CORE keeper is appointed, the Ministry will have more details on the overall timescales for the delivery of CORE services as the keeper will need to be involved in future planning.

Employment Tribunals Service

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has to review the rules governing employment tribunals. [138501]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Ministry of Justice has no plans to review the rules governing employment tribunals. However, there may be changes to the rules consequential upon the outcome of the current review by the Department for Trade and Industry of the Dispute Resolution Regulations 2004. The Department for Trade and Industry continues to keep the rules under review on an ongoing basis.

Family Courts

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will assess the effectiveness of the family court system. [137403]

Ms Harman: The family justice system is constantly under consideration and review. HMICA and Ofsted are planning later this year to inspect aspects of the family justice system looking in particular at the experience of users in the family courts, including the service delivered by CAFCASS.

The Government have also recently commissioned a research project to establish whether there is a genuine issue behind anecdotal evidence (put forward during the parliamentary passage of the Children and Adoption Act 2006) that some non-resident parents are awarded minimal contact with their children without good reason. A final report is expected in early 2008.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when she expects to make an announcement on family courts openness. [137634]

Ms Harman: The "Confidence and confidentiality: Improving transparency and privacy in family courts" consultation paper was published on 11 July 2006 and put forward a number of proposals with the aim of improving public confidence in the family courts, and safeguarding the privacy of those involved in proceedings.

We hope to publish a second consultation paper outlining a package of recommendations shortly.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many enforcement orders under the Children and Adoption Act 2004 have been made by courts in England and Wales in each month since June 2006; [137635]

(2) how many contact order warning notices under section 3 of the Children and Adoption Act 2004 have been made by courts in England and Wales in each month since June 2006. [137636]

Ms Harman: The Children and Adoption Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 21 June 2006. Both the attachment of warning notices to contact orders and the making of enforcement orders where contact orders are not complied with are dependent upon the implementation of Part 1 of the Act.

The Government expect that provisions in Part 1 of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 in relation to family assistance orders and risk assessments will be implemented from October 2007. The Government will be making a written ministerial statement shortly outlining the timetable for implementation of the remaining provisions of Part 1 of the Act, including those relating to warning notices and enforcement orders.

Fines: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what sanctions there are for use against members of the judiciary who decline to impose the surcharge on defendants ordered to pay a fine. [136784]

Ms Harman: Under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, the Judicial Discipline (Prescribed Procedures) Regulations 2006, and the Complaints (Magistrates) Rules 2006, allegations of judicial misconduct may be investigated. After the prescribed procedures have been followed, the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice may be of the view that such conduct amounts to misconduct, and they may, in accordance with s108 of the Constitutional Reform Act, advise, warn, reprimand, suspend or remove the Judicial Office Holder from office.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what estimate she has made of the effect of the introduction of the victim surcharge on the fines collection rate. [137633]

Ms Harman: It is estimated that there will be little or no impact on the fines collection rate following the introduction of the victims surcharge.

Jury Service: Mental Health

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the timetable is for the public consultation on the mental health criteria for jury duty referred to in the report of the Social Exclusion Unit of June 2004. [137709]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The subject matter of this consultation has proved problematic. The principal difficulty lies in devising a test that would allow those mentally disordered persons who are capable of undertaking jury service to serve, while excluding those who are incapable of serving, and yet be clear, easily understood and readily operable in practice. We remain committed to this consultation but it is not possible to give a specific timetable.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many offender managers employed by the National Offender Management Service are working with offenders in *(a)* the community and *(b)* custody; what the ratio is of offender managers to offenders in each case; and what plans she has to increase the number of offender managers in each category over the next four years. [137482]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The latest published figures indicate that there are over 6,200 offender managers in post across the 42 probation areas. The total caseload is over 170,000 in the community with an additional 59,000 in custody. Most offender managers will have a mixed caseload of community and custodial cases. A detailed breakdown cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Caseload sizes vary depending upon the nature of the cases being supervised. An offender manager responsible primarily for complex, high risk cases will have a much smaller caseload than an offender manager primarily responsible for less complex, low risk cases. The range of caseload sizes within a probation area may therefore be a wide one, perhaps from under 20 to over 80.

The number of offender managers appointed is a matter for probation boards to decide from within their overall allocation of resources. Decisions have yet to be made about resource allocations to probation boards for 2008-09 onward.

Parliamentary Papers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what *(a)* procedures are set in train and *(b)* sanctions are available in circumstances where a Minister does not lay a paper before Parliament within the timetable set in statute. [137853]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

Departments' procedures for ensuring adherence to statutory obligations, including failure to lay a paper before Parliament within a statutory timetable, and the statutory sanctions available would depend on the nature of the obligation and the terms of the relevant Act.

Ministers remain accountable to Parliament for the decisions and actions of their Departments, including adherence to statutory obligations.

I should also draw the hon. Members attention to Mr. Speaker's statement on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 400.

Pentonville Prison: Corruption

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Director General of the Prison Service and *(b)* the governor at HM Prison Pentonville on the leaking of the second report into corruption amongst prison staff at the establishment; and if she will make a statement. [137717]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are 14 separate investigations of individual members of staff at Pentonville. They are not listed in any particular order and so it is not clear to which investigation the hon. Member is referring. I am unaware of any leak, as is the governor, and it follows that I have had no discussions with the director general or the governor.

Police Custody

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners have been detained in police cells since the end of Operation Safeguard; what the cost has been of detaining those inmates; and if she will make a statement. [137719]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Operation Safeguard continues to be in use.

Prison Service: Finance

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will make a statement on the financial performance and management of HM Prison Service during 2006-07. [137721]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The financial performance of HM Prison Service for 2006-07 will be reported in its Annual Report and Accounts that are due to be laid before the House and published ahead of the summer parliamentary recess. These accounts are currently being audited by the National Audit Office; it would not therefore be appropriate to offer further comment at this point in time.

Prison Service: Homophobia

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what the legal costs were of cases arising following homophobic incidents within HM Prison Service in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement; [137724]

(2) what the cost was of awards at each prison establishment made as a consequence of homophobic incidents within HM Prison Service against *(a)* governors, *(b)* staff and *(c)* inmates in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [137725]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not collated in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners held in UK prisons are non-UK citizens. [138107]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures on the numbers of foreign national prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales at the end of March 2007, the latest date for which figures are available, can be found in the following table.

Corresponding figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be obtained from the Scottish Executive and the Northern Irish Prison Service respectively.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to errors with data and processing. Because the detailed population breakdowns have been scaled and also rounded to the nearest whole number, individual components may not sum to the totals.

Prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales 31 March 2007

	Numbers of foreign nationals
All nationalities	79,745
Foreign national	11,168
UK nationals	67,716
Not recorded	860

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many inmates in prisons in the UK were diagnosed with a mental health problem in each of the last 15 years; [138189]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of inmates in prisons who have mental health problems; and what plans there are to relocate them to more appropriate facilities. [138246]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally.

A survey, "Psychiatric morbidity among prisoners in England and Wales" (Office for National Statistics, 1998), showed that 90 per cent. of prisoners have at least one significant mental health problem, including personality disorder, psychosis, neurosis, alcohol misuse and drug dependence. A copy is available in the Library.

Prisoners who are assessed under the Mental Health Act as being too severely mentally ill for prison are transferred to hospital. The Department and Home Office issued joint guidance in October 2005 to mental health trusts and prisons in order to improve this

process. In 2006, 961 prisoners, with mental illness too severe for prison, were transferred to hospital, 33 per cent. more than in 2002.

We are also addressing the length of waits for these transfers. A survey taken by the Department for the quarter ending December 2006, showed that 38 prisoners recommended for transfer were waiting over 12 weeks for a transfer to hospital. This situation is improving, as 62 such prisoners were waiting at June 2005 and 44 at June 2006.

Prisons

Mr. Howard: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry for Justice pursuant to her answer of 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1425W, on prisons, how many prison places have been provided under contracts signed by this Administration; and if she will make a statement. [118823]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since May 1997, over 20,000 prison places have been delivered, of which 5,397 were provided by the private sector under agreements reached post May 1997.

The following table shows the number of prison places provided through the PFI initiative:

Location	*Date of contract*	*Certified Normal Accommodation—pre May 1997*	*CNA—post May 1997*	*Overcrowding—post May 1997*	*Total under current Administration*	*Total Op Cap*[1]
Altcourse[2]	20 December 1995	838	—	180	180	1,018
Rye Hill	23 July 1999	—	800	45	645	645
Forest Bank	6 July 1998	—	800	264	1,064	1,064
Lowdham Grange[2]	7 November 1996	—	504	60	564	564
Dovegate	27 September 1999	—	800	60	860	860
Ashfield[3]	1 July 1998	—	400	0	400	400
Peterborough	4 February 2003	—	840	108	948	948
Bronzefield	20 December 2002	—	450	0	450	450
Parc	4 January 1996	614	—	286	286	1,086
Total			4,394	1,003	5,397	7,035

[1] Op Cap as at 26 January 2007.
[2] 308 place houseblocks currently under construction—places available in phases from April 2007.
[3] HMP Ashfield transfers to the Youth Justice Board in April 2007.

Note:
The "Certified Normal Accommodation" is the uncrowded capacity of the establishment. Operational capacity is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. It is determined by operational managers on the basis of operational judgment and experience. Within the private prison estate the CNA is built into the contract and defined as available prisoner places. When the prison exceeds the CNA up to a pre-agreed level (Operational Capacity) these extra places are defined as 'Additional Prisoner Places' and is achieved by overcrowding.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the cost has been of Operation Safeguard. [138258]

Mr. Sutcliffe: NOMS has made payments totalling £1,432,722.87 in respect of the use of Operation Safeguard in 2006-07. In addition to this there are some further invoices to be submitted by police forces and some invoices that have been submitted which are being processed.

Re-offenders: Mentally Ill

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what percentage of prisoners re-offended within three years of their release in each of the last 15 years; and what percentage of those that re-offended had been diagnosed with mental health problems in each of those years. [138186]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Re-offending rates for three years following release from prison are not routinely calculated. Re-offending rates have historically been calculated over a two year period and the most recent figures for adults released from prison in England and Wales are shown in the following table.

Two year re-offending rates of adults released from prison, based on the first quarter of each year

	Re-offending rate (Percentage)
2000	64.8
2002	67.4
2003	65.8
2004	64.7

The percentage of these who suffered from a mental illness is unknown as this information is not on the Ministry of Justice's extract from the Police National Computer, which is used to calculate these figures.

Sentencing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many offenders were sentenced to indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection in each year since the relevant provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 were implemented; and how many such prisoners have been *(a)* released in line with their tariff minimum sentence and *(b)* kept in

custody beyond their tariff minimum sentence, broken down into those in custody (i) six months over their tariff and (ii) in increasing increments of six months over their tariff. [137546]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Public protection sentences were first provided in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and implemented for relevant offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. The numbers[1] of prisoners received into prisons in England and Wales under Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection (IPP) were 700 in 2005-06 and 1,710 in 2006-07. There have been five prisoners released from IPP sentences as at 30 April 2007. Four of these were released after the tariff period had expired. In another case the prisoner was released before tariff-expiry on compassionate grounds due to ill health. Complete information on those held in custody beyond their tariff period is not available centrally.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

[1] Rounded to nearest 10.

Supreme Court

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the estimated total cost is of establishing the new Supreme Court in the Middlesex Guildhall, including costs already incurred; and what her estimate is of the eventual cost of creating seven new courtrooms elsewhere in central London to replace those currently in the Guildhall. [137631]

Ms Harman: The costs involved in the establishment of a new Supreme Court are subject to ongoing negotiations with our preferred bidders: Kier Group for the renovation of Middlesex Guildhall and Geoffrey Osborne (Building) for the new court rooms at Isleworth. As the Lord Chancellor stated in his written ministerial statement of 17 October 2006, we will be in a position to make a statement on costs once we have reached financial close with the respective bidders.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when she expects the Supreme Court to be functional. [137632]

Ms Harman: The Supreme Court implementation programme is on target to deliver the Supreme Court at the Middlesex Guildhall in October 2009. This date is subject to obtaining "clean" planning and listed building consent and reaching Financial Close with our preferred bidder.

Witnesses: Protection

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what measures she is taking to improve the treatment of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses. [137884]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government have introduced a range of measures to support and assist vulnerable and intimidated witnesses before, during and after the trial. These include:

giving Victim Support £30 million a year to support victims and witnesses of which £2 million is ring-fenced to provide enhanced services for vulnerable and intimidated witnesses;

setting up, since 2004, joint Crown Prosecution Service/Police Witness Care Units to provide tailored support for witnesses;

implementing, under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, a statutory Code of Practice for Victims of Crime that requires criminal justice agencies to provide an enhanced service for vulnerable or intimidated victims;

placing witness protection on a statutory footing in the Serious Organised Crime and Policing Act 2005; and

phased implementation of a range of special measures in the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 to assist vulnerable or intimidated witnesses give their best evidence in court. These include video-recorded evidence in chief, evidence by live link, screens round the witness box, giving evidence in private and communication aids. The intermediary special measure is currently being piloted in eight areas in advance of national roll out.

Witnesses: Queen Elizabeth II

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what constitutional constraints prevent Her Majesty the Queen appearing as a witness in a *(a)* criminal court case, *(b)* civil action and *(c)* coroner's court case. [138428]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Queen cannot be compelled to give evidence before any court as it is an established constitutional principle that they are her own courts and have no jurisdiction over her.

Written Questions

Mr. Howard: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when she will reply to question 118823, on prison places, tabled by the right hon. and learned Member for Folkestone and Hythe on 31 January 2007. [138161]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have answered the right hon. and learned Gentleman's question today.

TREASURY

EC Budget: Rebates

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to introduce legislation to implement the Own Resources Decision of December 2005. [138327]

Ed Balls: Legislation to implement the Own Resources Decision in respect of changes to the EC budget agreed at the December 2005 European Council will be introduced by means of a European Communities (Finance) Bill and will be brought forward as parliamentary time allows.

Insurance: Social Rented Housing

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will establish a target for availability of insure with rent schemes in greater numbers of local authorities and housing associations; [137540]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the insurance industry, *(b)* local government and *(c)* housing associations on promoting insure with rent schemes among uninsured households; [137541]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on increasing the availability of insure with rent schemes in local authorities and housing associations. [137542]

Ed Balls: The Government recognise the important role of insurance as a financial tool, enabling people to protect against potential losses arising from risks to assets like home contents or a car.

The Treasury has recently announced that insurance will be considered—alongside affordable credit and saving—as part of the Government's commitment to ensuring that everyone is able to plan for the future and cope with financial pressure.

The Government have asked the Financial Inclusion Taskforce to work with the Association of British Insurers and the insurance industry, to investigate how insurance can be made an integral part of financial inclusion policy. This work will consider ways of building on existing initiatives, such as insurance with rent schemes, and explore the viability of new initiatives, such as risk-reduction approaches. Local government and housing associations are important stakeholders and will also be involved in discussions.

All Ministers with an interest in financial inclusion have been invited to join a ministerial working group, which will determine detailed priorities for financial inclusion policy, including insurance, and publish a detailed action plan after the CSR.

Sanctions: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the compliance cost to the UK financial sector of the implementation of the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747; and if he will make a statement. [137475]

Ed Balls: The financial restrictions imposed by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747 are implemented in the UK through The Iran (Financial Sanctions) Order 2007. When enacting this secondary legislation a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) was carried out that considered the costs to the financial sector.

A copy of this RIA can be found on the OPSI website.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funds have been frozen in the UK in respect of UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747; and if he will make a statement. [137476]

Ed Balls: Bank Sepah and Bank Sepah International are the only Iranian entities designated by the UN under Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747 to have so far been identified as holding assets in the UK. These assets were frozen on 24 March 2007 under the provisions of the Iran (Financial Sanctions) Order 2007. We are currently evaluating the frozen assets held in the UK. The release of detailed information is subject to banking confidentiality and disclosure arrangements.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Average Earnings

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average weekly income of the lowest earning decile was in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [132124]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The median weekly equivalised income for the lowest decile in 2004-05 was £144 (before housing costs) and £91 (after housing costs). This is expressed in 2005-06 prices.

The information requested for 2005-06 will be shown in the revised HBAI 2005-06 release.

The Secretary of State made a written statement to Parliament on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 20WS, on why the statistics are being revised.

Better Backs Campaign

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Better Backs campaign. [133909]

Mrs. McGuire: HSE has undertaken a detailed independent evaluation of its Better Backs media campaigns in 2005 and 2006. In both cases awareness of the campaign messages was raised among both employers and employees. In addition HSE and local authority stakeholder engagement and inspection activity highlighted the likely health problems associated with manual handling activities, in particular back problems and the remedies that could reduce them. Looked at over the longer-term, HSE has campaigned around musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), including back pain, for many years and the period 2001-02 to 2005-06 has seen a drop in estimated working days lost to MSDs from 11.8 million to 9.45 million.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Better Backs campaign has cost. [133910]

Mrs. McGuire: The Better Backs media campaigns, in 2005 and 2006, cost HSE £2.2 million and £2.5 million respectively. The corresponding stakeholder and workplace inspection campaigns accounted for some £3.2 million of HSE resource over the two years.

Departments: Internet

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Better Backs website has cost to administer since inception. [133907]

Mrs. McGuire: The internal HSE costs for maintaining the site from May 2005 to April 2007 amount to £21,000. The initial development and set-up costs through external suppliers (already included in the campaign costs indicated in the answer to PQ 133910) amount to £100,000. The dedicated site generated over 180,000 direct visits.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many user visits the Better Backs website has received since inception. [133908]

Mrs. McGuire: The two 'Better backs' campaigns used dedicated websites working closely with key areas of HSE's main website. Visits to the specific Better Backs' sites amounted to 182,191 over the two year period, visits to other parts of the site that can be attributed directly to the campaign effect add around another 180,000.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135729]

James Purnell: The following tables outline the information available about the Department of Work and Pensions website's visitor's figures and costs for site establishment and maintenance.

Web statistics have been shown where available without incurring disproportionate costs. Statistics are only available from 2004-05.

Production, management and maintenance of DWP websites is carried out by the Department's own in-house E-Communications team. It is not possible to quantify internal costs for each site but contracted and quantifiable costs have been included where possible. Contracted and quantifiable costs include payments to suppliers for services such as research, user testing and site builds, and payments to interim personnel.

DWP is reviewing all its websites in line with Cabinet Office rationalisation guidance. The department is committed to website rationalisation and many of these sites will eventually close. Migration plans are currently being developed.

Table A lists those websites operated by Department for Work and Pensions where the department is responsible for the content:

Website name and address		*Visitors*	*Unique visitors*	*Contracted and quantifiable costs*
Department for Work and Pensions www.dwp.gov.uk	2006-07	8,418,356	4,378,336	8,116
	2005-06	6,643,210	—	1,954
	2004-05	5,299,898	—	101,467
	2003-04	—	—	0
	2002-03	—	—	0
	2001-02	—	—	48,143
	2000-01	—	—	152,000 (DSS)
Jobcentre Plus www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk	2006-07	84,766,255	Unique ip's 34,226,575 Unique visitors—page tagging 47,201,253	—
	2005-06	49,363,970	—	17,183,000
	2004-05	29,014,015	—	—
The Pension Service www.thepensionservice.gov.uk	2006-07	3,419,414	1,749,368	—
	2005-06	1,373,990	—	182,000
	2004-05	935,152	—	0
	2003-04	—	—	186,950
	2002-03	—	—	188,093
	2001-02	—	—	237,577
Child Support Agency www.csa.gov.uk	2006-07	1,587,319	760,189	0
	2005-06	1,388,170	—	31,000
	2004-05	1,266,743	—	0
Directgov Disabled People and Carers Sections www.direct.gov.uk/disability	2005-06	—	—	500,000
www.direct.gov.uk/carers	2004-05	—	—	750,000
Directgov Over 50s Section www.direct.gov.uk/over50s	2005-06	—	—	145,553
Directgov Jobseekers www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Jobseekers		—	—	0
Age Positive	2006-07	430,511	327,650	0
www.agepositive.gov.uk	2005-06	984,229 (10 months)	—	—

Website name and address		Visitors	Unique visitors	Contracted and quantifiable costs
	2004-05	1,137,532	—	0
Benefit Fraud Inspectorate www.bfi.gov.uk	2006-07	176,160	68,451	0
Office for Disability Issues www.officefordisability.gov.uk	2006-07	93,016	30,773	46,000
European Social Fund www.esf.gov.uk	2006-07	300,497	133,324	0
	2005-06	294,253	—	31,000
	2004-05	392,038	—	0
Rent Service www.therentservice.gov.uk	2006-07	250,000	—	—

Table B lists those websites operated by the Department for Work and Pensions where the department is not responsible for the content:

Website name and address	Visitors (2006-07)	Unique visitors	Contracted and quantifiable costs
Disability Employment Advisory Committee www.deac.org.uk	10,299	3,544	0
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board www.dlaab.org.uk	25,719	12,747	0
Employer Task Force www.employertaskforce.org.uk	—	—	The costs for this site is included in the figure for the Pension Service in Table A
Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force www.emetaskforce.gov.uk	—	—	0
Images of Disability www.imagesofdisability.gov.uk	51, 573 (visits)	21,171	0
Independent Case Examiner www.ind-case-exam.org.uk	33,499	11,890	0
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council www.iiac.org.uk	47,777	18,703	0
National Employment Panel www.nationalemploymentpanel.gov.uk	—	—	0
Pensions At Work www.pensionsatwork.org	51,294	19,011	The costs for this site is included in the figure for the Pension Service in Table A
Pensions Commission www.pensionscommission.org.uk	—	35,699	The costs for this site is included in the figure for the Pension Service in Table A
Fair Cities www.faircities.net	—	—	0
Social Security Advisory Committee www.ssac.org.uk	31,264	9,842	0

The following websites have been built by DWP but are managed independently so no financial or statistical information is available:

Health and Safety Executive
Independent Living Funds
Pension Protection Fund
Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman
Pensions Ombudsman
Remploy
The Pensions Regulator
The Pensions Advisory Service
Disability Rights Commission

Departments: Personal Data

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of individuals whose personal data has been stolen from his Department and its executive agencies in each of the last five years. [134151]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available and no such estimate has been made. However, in 2004 personal information relating to approximately 8,800 staff was stolen.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average per capita payment of those leaving his Department under voluntary early release schemes promoted by the Gershon efficiency review was in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [132481]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 19 April 2007]:* Information on the numbers of staff leaving the Department, the annual expenditure and the average cost for each member of staff since 2004 is in the following table. The information relates solely to staff leaving on early release relating to the Gershon review.

Where staff have left the Department on voluntary early retirement terms, the figures include provisions for all pension payments to age 60.

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Actual/forecast expenditure (£ million)	30	1 72.8	61 .68
Number of staff exits by full-time equivalent (FTE)	570	2,965	1,354
Average staff exit per full-time equivalent (FTE) (£)	52,600	58,300	45,600

Departments: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Department of Work and Pensions offices in Wales *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [136635]

Mrs. McGuire: The following list details offices that have opened and closed since 1998. Information for 1997 is not available as it is not held centrally and to collate it would incur a disproportionate cost.

(a) Offices opened

1998

Cardiff—Charles Street

1999

Cwmbran—Gwent Square
Machynlleth—43-45 Gwyn Street
Newport Unit—21 Enterprise Park
Pwllheli—Cardiff Road

2000

Cardiff—Golate House St. Mary Street
Cardiff—Southgate House Wood Street

2002

Swansea—Units 1-4 Waterside Business Park
Wrexham—1 Rhyd-Broughton Lane

2003

Aberdare—Crown Buildings Greenbach
Pembroke Dock—Cleddau Bridge Business Park

2005

Porth—35 Hannah Street

2006

Bangor—Gladman Unit Parc Menai

(b) Offices closed

1998

Brecon—Crown Building 48 Free Street
Cardiff—Hayes House The Hayes
Cardiff—Westgate Street
Wrexham—CB31 Chester Street

1999

Cwmbran—Dyfed House
Machynlleth—Liverpool House
Neath—Gnoll Park Road
Port Talbot—29 Ynys Street
Pwllheli—New Street

2000

Penygroes—Old Town Hall
Swansea—Ty Bryn Glas, Powell Street

2001

Wrexham—Hightown Barracks, Kingsmill Road
Carmarthen—Picton Terrace (MEC)

2003

Llangollen—Castle Street
Shotton PCO—Victoria Buildings Victoria Road
Pwllheli—The Emporium Penlan Street
Tumble—84 Bethesda Road
Shotton—85 Chester Road West
Llangefni—Arcadia Buildings Bridge Street
Aberdare—6 Victoria Square
Tonypandy—Crown Buildings River View

2004

Cardiff—Units 1 and 2 Western Avenue
Beaumaris Masonic Chambers—Margaret Street
Llangefni—33-35 High Street
Newtown Ladywell—House Park Street
Llantwit Major—Hayes Rooms Townhall Square
Barmouth—Post Office Buildings King Edward Street
Holyhead—New Crown Building Park Street
Blaenau Ffestiniog—46 High Street

2005

Forth—33-34 Hannah Street
Tonyrefail—Crown Buildings Duffryn Terrace
Ferndale—69A High Street
Llandrindod Wells—Government Buildings Spa Road East
Cardiff—4th Floor 1 Bridge Street
Colwyn Bay—Government Buildings Dinerth Road Rhos on Sea (MSEC)
Merthyr Tydfil—1 Glebeland Street
Treharris—3 Bargoed Terrace
Swansea—16 Station Road Cymmer
Glynneath—16 High Street
Port Talbot—Cymric House Bethany Square

2006

Ystrad Mynach—22 Penallta Road
Neath—Percival House 119 London Road
Garnant—26 Dynevor Road
Brynmawr—114 Worcester Street
Haverfordwest—1 Cherry Grove
Holywell—Crown Buildings Coleshill Street
Prestatyn—129 High Street
Denbigh—34-36 Vale Street
Fishguard—Crown Buildings Brodog Lane
Llandeilo—1 King Street
Llanrwst—Bradford House 6 Denbigh Street
Tenby—Ruabon House South Parade
Haverfordwest—Winchway House Winch Lane
Rhyl—64 Brighton Road
Barry—Provincial House Kendrick Road
Flint—Flint House Chapel Street (Deeside)
Swansea—25 High Street Pontardawe
Pembroke Dock—Devonshire Road Llanion Park
Wrexham—Crane Street Cefn Mawr
Llangollen—32 Castle Street
Wrexham—1-? Imperial Buildings King Street
Newport—Unit 21 Enterprise Park
Conwy—13 High Street
Llandysul—Bizerta House Wind Street
Cardiff—Oxford House Hills Street The Hayes
Blackwood—81-81A High Street
Newbridge—Ashfield Road

Wrexham—16 Lord Street
Bargoed—Oldway House Gilfach Street
Pontlottyn—Crown Building 10 River Road
Risca—66-67 Tredegar Street
Swansea—52-54 Woodfield Street Morriston

2007

Ammanford—Crown Buildings Hall Street
Swansea—Oldway House Rutland Place
Carmarthen—Ty Myrddin Dan y Bank Road

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the new cap of £26,000 for assistance from the financial assistance scheme will be uprated in line with inflation. [135123]

James Purnell: The extension to the FAS announced in March means that we will be helping many more members over a greater length of time. Because of the extension the payment assessment rules may need to be revised to help ensure we determine FAS payments consistently for all members. We intend to ensure that the cap retains its value, even where assessments are made for members who will not be eligible for payment until many years into the future. We are looking at the best way to achieve this objective and details will be published in draft regulations for consultation.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former Allied Steel and Wire workers have received *(a)* 80 per cent., *(b)* 65 per cent. and *(c)* 50 per cent. of their expected core pension under the Financial Assistance Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [135298]

James Purnell: There are two ASW pension schemes that qualify for the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS). FAS cannot make annual payments at 80 per cent. until the ASW pension schemes have completed the wind up process. In the meantime, initial payments at 60 per cent. of expected core pension are being made to 31 members of the ASW Pension Plan (Cardiff) and three members of the ASW Sheerness Steel Group Pension Fund. The current Pensions Bill will raise the level at which initial payments are made to 80 per cent. with immediate effect from Royal Assent. No payments are being made at the rates of 80 per cent., 65 per cent. and 50 per cent.

As FAS payments commence at age 65, (except in special circumstances where early access to payments can be applied for by scheme trustees for terminally ill qualifying members or to the survivor of a qualifying member), under the current scheme no-one would be expected to start receiving payments at the rate of 65 per cent. or 50 per cent. until at least 15 May 2011 or 15 May 2015 respectively. However our announcement of increased funding for FAS will ensure that by then all will receive 80 per cent.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest payment has been under the Financial Assistance Scheme to former Allied Steel and Wire workers living (i) in and (ii) outside Wales; and if he will make a statement. [136632]

James Purnell: There are two ASW pension schemes which qualify for FAS, the ASW Pension Plan (Cardiff) and the ASW Sheerness Steel Group Pension Fund. The following figures relate to individual member/survivor payments of gross payments per annum (inclusive of tax but not including arrears).

ASW Pension Plan (Cardiff) (32 members)

	Amount (£)
Highest payment	7,557.72
Lowest payment	399.24
Average payment	2,578.71

ASW Sheerness Steel Group Pension Fund (3 members)

	Amount (£)
Highest payment	2,606.52
Lowest payment	726.92
Average payment	1,684.08

Members/survivors living in Wales (30 members)

	Amount (£)
Highest payment	7,557.72
Lowest payment	399.24
Average payment	2,537.18

Members/survivors living outside Wales (5 members)

	Amount (£)
Highest payment	2,606.52
Lowest payment	635.76
Average payment	1,280.68

Housing Benefit: Costs

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of housing benefit in each year since the scheme was introduced. [137923]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 18 May 2007]*: The available information is in the following table.

Housing benefit expenditure

£ millions

	Cash	2007-08 prices	Status of Data
1988-89	3,757	6,896	Outturn
1989-90	4,258	7,293	Outturn
1990-91	5,106	8,109	Outturn
1991-92	6,363	9,523	Outturn
1992-93	7,814	11,330	Outturn
1993-94	9,218	13,026	Outturn
1994-95	10,104	14,065	Outturn
1995-96	10,876	14,693	Outturn
1996-97	11,380	14,873	Outturn
1997-98	11,176	14,194	Outturn
1998-99	11,065	13,705	Outturn
1999-2000	11,066	13,434	Outturn
2000-01	11,166	13,368	Outturn
2001-02	11,589	13,552	Outturn
2002-03	12,637	14,334	Outturn
2003-04	12,345	13,599	Outturn
2004-05	13,172	14,121	Outturn
2005-06	13,947	14,678	Outturn
2006-07	14,675	15,071	Estimated Outturn
2007-08	15,526	15,526	Plans

Notes: All figures are consistent with the 2007 Budget report. Figures have been rounded to the nearest million pounds.
Source: DWP benefit expenditure tables (Tables 3, 3a, 4, and 4a).

Industrial Health and Safety: Agriculture

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the Gangmasters Act 2004 on deaths and injuries at work in the agriculture sector; and what evidence the Government has received of agricultural gangmasters moving to unregulated sectors. [135668]

Mrs. McGuire: Fatal and non-fatal accidents in industries for which the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the enforcing authority, including agriculture, are reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). Records show that one fatal accident involving a worker supplied by a gangmaster was reported in 2005-06. No work-related fatal accident involving a worker supplied by a gangmaster was reported in 2006-07.

RIDDOR does not require employers to record an injured worker's employment status when reporting an accident, so it is extremely difficult to identify injuries to casual and temporary workers supplied by gangmasters from accidents reported to HSE with any degree of accuracy.

There is no specific evidence of the extent to which gangmasters are moving to unregulated sectors. However, there is clear evidence that some gangmasters supply into several sectors. There is also evidence that gangmasters whose Gangmaster Licensing Authority (GLA) licences have been revoked are still trading.

The GLA has commissioned work to measure the impact of the licensing arrangements, including impact on the number of gangmasters. The initial results will be published in late 2007.

Industrial Health and Safety: Sonae (UK)

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many enforcement notices were issued by the Health and Safety Executive to Sonae (UK) Ltd. in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [132999]

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many enforcement notices were issued by the Health and Safety Executive to Sonae (UK) Ltd. in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [134535]

Mrs. McGuire: There have been no enforcement notices issued by the Health and Safety Executive in the last four years against Sonae (UK) Ltd. at the Knowsley site.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the cause of the incident at the Sonae factory in Kirkby in February 2007. [133025]

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the cause of the incident at the Sonae factory in Kirkby in February 2007. [134528]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive has undertaken a thorough investigation of the fire at Sonae (UK) Ltd. on 20 February 2007 and has determined that this fire was caused by the catastrophic failure of either a mechanical seal or an impeller on pump number two in the thermal oil manifold room. This resulted in hot oil being discharged into the manifold room and the oil was ignited when it came into contact with a hot surface, either the handle on one of the pump valves or the impeller casing. Sonae's fire precautions were effective in limiting the consequences of the fire, despite the existence of a previously unknown void between the wall of the manifold room and the external cladding. The damage to the plant control room resulted from smoke and hot gases breaching this void, although such damage was limited to plant and equipment. There was no loss of life or injury.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations reports were made by Sonae (UK) Ltd. in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement; [133033]

(2) how many lost time accidents were reported by Sonae (UK) Ltd. in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [133000]

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many incidents reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 were made by Sonae (UK) Ltd. in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement; [134532]

(2) how many lost time accidents were reported by Sonae (UK) Ltd. in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [134533]

Mrs. McGuire: There have been 27 reports made by Sonae (UK) Ltd. in the last four years under the requirements of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. The distribution of these reports are detailed in the following table.

	Deaths	*Major injury*	*Over 3 day accidents*	*Dangerous occurrences*	*Total*
2003-04	0	4	5	1	10
2004-05	0	2	3	0	5
2005-06	0	2	1	0	3
2006-07	0	0	8	1	9
Total	0	8	17	2	27

There is no requirement to report lost time accidents to the Health and Safety Executive, other than those required to be reported under RIDDOR.

IT Projects

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which information technology projects are being undertaken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies; what the (i) start date, (ii) original planned completion date, (iii) expected completion date, (iv) originally planned costs and (v) estimated costs are of each; and if he will make a statement. [101696]

Mrs. McGuire: Although the Department does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmes which include changes to IT to a greater or lesser extent. We have included in the following table:

those current projects and programmes undertaken by the Department where the IT element of the project or programme results in the development and/or implementation of services that underpin the delivery of departmental business, and

where non-delivery of the IT element would significantly damage the project's or programme's ability to deliver its intended results.

For all programmes or projects with the exception of CSA Operational Improvement Plan the costs and dates reported relate to the total project or programme and not only the IT element. In the case of CSA OIP which is an operational improvement programme only the IT element costs and delivery timelines are recorded in the table.

The table shows information on their purpose, start date, original planned completion date, expected completion date, originally planned costs and estimated costs.

It should be noted that the scope of projects change as they pass through the project lifecycle and as plans and costs become more robust. At each stage of this process they are checked to ensure that they continue to fit with Departmental strategy and continue to deliver value for money.

Project	*Purpose*	*Start Date (i)*	*Original Planned Completion Date (ii)*	*Expected Completion Date (iii)*	*Originally Planned Costs (iv) (£ million)*	*Estimated Costs (v) (£ million)*
Pensions Transformation Project—see note 4	The programme will transform The Pension Service, bringing together business and IT change in ways that improve customer service and deliver efficiencies.	January 2002	March 2007	2010/11	429	829
Customer Information System	This project will deliver a database of key citizen information to be shared across DWP. The database will complement information currently available in the Department's key customer information systems, i.e. Personal Details Computer System and Departmental Central Index, and become their replacement.	15 July 2003	September 2007	February 2008	40	83
The Document Repository Service	This project seeks to support the Department's modernisation programmes for GB & NI (Disability Carers Service (DCS), Jobcentre Plus (JCP), Pension Service (TPS) and The Child Support Agency (CSA)) through the provision of a document repository to store digitised images of documents received from customers (letters, faxes, e-mails etc.)	July 2006	November 2008	November 2008	6	5
Real Time Pensions Forecasts (RTPF)—Strategic Alignment	To strategically align the RPTF e-service by utilising the Retirement Planner Project (RPP) solution (with RTPF service 'ring-fenced') and moving to the Corporate Integration Backbone (CIB) and Distributed Known Facts model.	May 2006	February 2007	May 2007	1	1
State Pension Deferral Project	To identify, co-ordinate, assure, communicate and deliver changes to business systems and process, within timescales, to secure the introduction of changes to State Pension deferral rules.	April 2004	April 2006	April 2007	7	6

Project	Purpose	Start Date (i)	Original Planned Completion Date (ii)	Expected Completion Date (iii)	Originally Planned Costs (iv) (£ million)	Estimated Costs (v) (£ million)
Resource Management	This programme will provide modernised HR, financial and procurement functions for DWP staff. It will introduce significant business process change, enabling departmental resources to be managed more effectively.	April 2001	April 2005	June 2007	96	208
Central Payments System (formerly part of Payment Modernisation)	A modern integrated central payment engine and accounts payable system to improve accounting for benefit/pension payments, reduce risks of service failure, increased speed and efficiency, and information for improved customer service and reduced fraud and error.	April 2004	October 2006	December 2010	90	141
Customer Management System (previously known as Working Age Services Modernisation Project (WASMP)	The CMS releases develop and implement a new front-end data gathering system for primary Jobcentre Plus benefit processing systems, including auto-transfer of data.	January 2001	April 2008	April 2008	252	266
Employment and Support Allowance	The project delivers the system and processes to implement the new ESA allowance.	August 2006	October 2008	October 2008	295	295
WATCh2	WATCh 2 will develop and deliver a modern, flexible, (COTS, Siebel-based) IT platform in support of business priorities—including improving services for employers and improved programme protection.	November 2004	October 2006	June 2007	68	91
HR IS/IT programme	Following the merger of the Employment Service and the Benefits Agency Human Resources functions the DWP HR organisation is undergoing modernisation and moving from a centralised, old-style personnel function to a new outward facing HR Group. This includes changing how DWP delivers policies and services. The HR IS/IT Programme contributes to the delivery of these improvements ensuring its operation is efficient and effective and supports Departments learning and leadership objectives.	June 2003	March 2006	March 2008	63	62

Project	Purpose	Start Date (i)	Original Planned Completion Date (ii)	Expected Completion Date (iii)	Originally Planned Costs (iv) (£ million)	Estimated Costs (v) (£ million)
On Time Solution	Provide a range of improved information services to DWP businesses, including improved quicker Management Information, Fraud and Error intervention and analysis.	March 2006	March 2011	March 2011	11	11
Operational Improvement Plan (see note 5)	Operational and organisational restructuring of the Child Support Agency to deliver more money to more children.	April 2006	April 2009	April 2009	107	107

Notes:
1. Original planned completion date and originally planned completion costs are the date and costs agreed to by the relevant departmental management committee at the time the project or programme passed through Gate zero (or an equivalent process) of the Department's governance procedures. We expect these to change as costs and timelines become clearer through the lifetime of the project. We continually review costs at the appropriate governance points to ensure that they continue to deliver value for money.
2. The costs above represent the costs of implementing the particular project and programme. Costs of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included above as they are more than compensated for by the savings they generate. These savings are demonstrated in the recent NAO report "The Efficiency programme: A Second Review of Progress".
3. In addition to the above projects and programmes Electronic Registered Files is undertaking a pilot and a review of this project will be carried out once the pilot is completed.
4. When first conceived the Pensions Transformation Programme was to be funded by way of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement. During the early stages of development, best practice for financing the programme indicated that PFI was no longer the appropriate financing method and thus it was decided to use departmental funds. Financing the development using departmental funds has the effect of increasing the development costs of the programme while reducing the operating cost of the programme by a similar amount. Thus the actual amount of money committed to the programme is broadly the same.
5. The Child Support Agency Operational Improvement Plan is a business recovery programme and is not a change project in the normal sense of the word. The focus of the programme is the organisational and operational restructuring of the Agency to deliver significant performance improvements and get more money to parents, it specifically aims to tackle the key area of debt, compliance and enforcement. Over a three year period the programme will design, develop and implement, process and organisational change underpinned by continuing remediation of existing computer systems and the introduction of further IT enhancements.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mystery shopper exercises at Jobcentre Plus. [133904]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 21 May 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mystery shopper exercises at Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Mystery Shopping is an established method, used by thousands of businesses across the UK, to provide an independent assessment of customer service. It is an important way in which Jobcentre Plus assesses the service it provides to customers, but it is not the only approach used. For example, the Average Actual Clearance Times target measures customer service in terms of benefit clearance times and Jobcentre Plus also conducts customer surveys and acts upon feedback received from individuals, partners and other stakeholders.

The Mystery Shopping programme is one part of the Customer Service Target, which measures performance against the Jobcentre Plus Service Standards. It includes measures of the quality of service provided in key face to face and telephone contacts. The timing of calls to sites is random and can be at any time during business hours so staff do not know when they may be visited or called. Results from the Mystery Shopping Programme are published on the Jobcentre Plus website.

The effectiveness of the Mystery Shopping Programme is regularly assessed within Jobcentre Plus and with the contracted supplier, GfK. The assessment process includes listening to telephone calls and carrying out a series of six accompanied visits per quarter with the independent assessors. This may result in changes to the wording of particular questions to increase clarity and understanding. In addition, when new programmes are introduced, or in response to customer or stakeholder feedback, new scenarios may be developed to test staff knowledge. As a result of these reviews the number and range of scenarios used by the independent assessors was gradually increased in 2006/07.

Results from the mystery shopping programme are used to identify areas for improvement and where further learning and development may be required, either nationally or in particular sites. In the first quarter of 2006/07 national Customer Service Target performance was 1.2 percentage points below profile and, to address this, a number of measures were put in place that had been identified by the Mystery Shopping process. These included the introduction of an A to Z guidance tool which provides information on the policies and programmes that customers (or mystery shoppers) may enquire about, which we expect our staff to understand.

It is still Jobcentre Plus' intention to provide feedback to sites at the earliest opportunity, via the supplier's (GfK) website. Feedback is an important part of mystery shopping as it helps staff and managers to understand where they need to do better in the service they provide dealing with customer enquiries. It enables Business Delivery Unit/District Performance Managers to identify local learning and development needs, or other remedial action, to ensure that the best possible service is maintained for all customers.

For 2007/08 further changes have been introduced to strengthen and improve the "mystery" element by further increasing the number and range of scenarios, varying the way the questions are asked and changing the way feedback is provided.

I hope this is helpful.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to the letter of 26 February from the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes' constituent Mr. R Taylor of Hadley Place, Milton Keynes. [133464]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member's constituent's letter on 30 April 2007.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were given to non-UK nationals each year since 1992, broken down by nationality. [137519]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to April 2002. The available information broken down by country of origin has been placed in the Library.

Pension Service

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customer visits were carried out by the Pension Service local teams in each year since 2002. [133905]

James Purnell: No data are available for 2002-03 and 2003-04 years for customer visits carried out by The Pension Service local teams as national figures were not maintained for this period.

Data for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are in the following table

	Total number of visits	*Total number of positive outcomes*
2004-05	805,390	202,930
2005-06	1,250,420	223,180
2006-07	1,071,480	295,100

Notes:
1. A positive outcome refers to applications for benefit that have resulted in a monetary award of benefit to the customer.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Pensions: Compensation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the cost of providing compensation to members of pension schemes with a solvent employer who have lost pension savings at *(a)* financial assistance scheme levels and *(b)* pension protection fund levels in (i) cash terms and (ii) net present value terms. [136024]

James Purnell: The total number of pension schemes with solvent employers which have commenced winding-up is not known, so we are unable to provide any estimates relating to members of such schemes, other than for those we are aware of with compromise agreements.

We estimate that the cost of providing assistance at the levels requested to members of pension schemes which have reached a compromise agreement is as follows:

(a) (i) £570 million at Financial Assistance Scheme rates in cash terms.

(ii) £130 million at Financial Assistance Scheme rates in NPV terms.

(b)(i) £760 million at Pension Protection Fund levels in cash terms.

(ii) £180 million at Pension Protection Fund levels in NPV terms.

Pensions: Females

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures he has put in place to deal with the additional workload in his Department arising from women born in 1947 reaching pension age. [136996]

James Purnell: Our workload volumes forecasts take account of published population projections, provided by the Government Actuary's Department, as well as the impact of current and planned policy initiatives, including state pension deferral and state pension reform. Any female population growth from 1947 will therefore be factored into our state pension and pension credit workload forecasts from 2007.

This information is then used to calculate and plan the resources required to administer forecast workloads. This, and other factors such as planned productivity improvements brought about through our transformation programme, will be factored into long term planning. Decisions about budgets and workforce deployment take into account affordability, value for money and the different priorities of our key customer groups. The process for ensuring sufficient resources are in place to handle any increase in workload is robust and staffing allocations are made to maintain a high standard of customer service.

Pensions: Insolvency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of pension schemes in wind-up with a solvent employer which signed compromise agreements after 2005 which do not qualify for assistance from the Pensions Protection Fund or the financial assistance scheme as proposed to be amended by the Pensions Bill; and what his estimate is of the number of members in these schemes. [136018]

James Purnell: Information on the number of compromise agreements entered into by trustees and employers after 2005 is unavailable. However, since 2005, employers that are considering entering into a compromise agreement with their pension scheme may obtain assurance in the form of a clearance statement from the Pensions Regulator that a contribution notice or financial support direction will not be issued later in respect of that agreement. In general terms the Regulator will not issue clearance statements where compromise agreements render schemes ineligible for the Pension Protection Fund (PPF).

Public Spaces: Accidents

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many legal actions brought against local and central government authorities as a consequence

of accidents in *(a)* publicly administered space and *(b)* play areas in the last 12 months involved (i) under-18s and (ii) under-16s. [133858]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive is responsible for enforcing health and safety legislation in relation to local and central Government. HSE brought one case against a local authority in 2006-07, as a consequence of accidents to persons under 16. There were no other cases involving under-18s.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many legal actions were brought against local and central Government authorities as a consequence of accidents in play areas in each year since 1997. [133860]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive is responsible for enforcing health and safety legislation in relation to local and central Government. In the 10 years from 1997-2008 to 2006-07, it brought 16 cases against local authorities following accidents to persons under the age of 18 in playgrounds, sports areas, swimming pools, and public parks.

Social Fund Community Care Grant

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average Social Fund Community Care Grant award was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region in 2005-06 and 2006-07. [137535]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following tables.

Social fund community care grants

£

	Average initial award	
	2005-06	*2006-07*
England	407	418

Social fund community care grants by region

£

	Average initial award	
Government office region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
East of England	413	445
East Midlands	416	452
London	483	460
North East	349	353
North West	375	402
Scotland	408	449

Social fund community care grants by region

£

	Average initial award	
Government office region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
South East	413	403
South West	371	381
Wales	381	393
West Midlands	397	405
Yorkshire and the Humber	406	425

Note:
Awards made after review are not included.
Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the real terms reduction in the Social Fund Community Care Grant budget on the resettlement of homeless people. [137536]

Mr. Plaskitt: No such specific assessment has been made or is planned.

The Community Care Grant budget is now 41 per cent. higher in "cash terms" than in 2000-01 and represents an increase of 18 per cent. in real terms. It is available to meet the wide-ranging needs of all vulnerable groups, including the resettlement of homeless people.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on British accession to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [137786]

Mrs. McGuire: On 30 March I signed this convention on behalf of the United Kingdom at a signature ceremony organised by the United Nations at its New York headquarters. A total of 92 countries, nearly half of all UN member states, have now signed the convention. The objective of the convention is to secure for the estimated 650 million disabled people around the world their human rights on an equal basis with non-disabled people. Our signature of the convention signifies the UK's strong support for human rights at home and abroad and our intention to ratify the convention without undue delay.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 22 May 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Information Packs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has conducted a cost/benefit analysis of home information packs; and if she will make a statement. [137427]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* The cost/benefit analysis of home information packs was set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment that was published alongside the Home Information Pack Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/992) which were laid before Parliament on 29 March 2007.

Planning Permission: Hartley Wintney

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the advice she has received ahead of her decision on the planning application for Dilly Lane, Hartley Wintney; and, in so far as she is able under data protection principles, if she will list private representations on the same application. [135774]

Meg Munn: No final decision has been taken in this case. The Secretary of State's "minded to allow" decision was made on the basis of the Inspector's report and evidence submitted to the public inquiry held into the proposals.

The "minded to allow" letter sought further evidence on the position with regard to the supply of housing land in Hart District. The deadline for submissions on that topic was 15 May. Officials will shortly be circulating the representations received on that issue, as promised in the "minded to allow" letter. The recirculation letter will also include a list of all other representations received as an Annex. The right hon. Member will receive a copy.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Gypsy Travellers sites have been built as a direct result of the Housing Act 2004. [138413]

Meg Munn: The Housing Act 2004 requires local authorities to undertake accommodation needs assessments for Gypsies and Travellers in their areas. Information collected in March showed that assessments were under way, or had been completed, in 90 per cent. of local authorities. We do not collect information on whether sites are built as a direct result of assessments.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: Food

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what use Ofcom plans to make of the Food Standards Agency's nutrient profiling model in redressing the imbalance of television advertising to children; and what account will be taken of typical portion size in implementing any system of redress. [138423]

Mr. Woodward: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Bingo: Smoking

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the smoking ban on bingo clubs. [138222]

Mr. Caborn: The Government have not carried out a specific assessment of the potential impacts on the bingo industry of the smoke free provisions within the Health Act 2006. The overall costs and benefits of the Health Act are set out in the regulatory impact assessment which is available in the Library or on the Department of Health's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/index.htm

Bookmakers: Fees and Charges

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the average amount of fees payable by Category *(a)* A and *(b)* B bookmakers to the Gambling Commission. [138550]

Mr. Caborn: No average amount of licence fees payable has been estimated for Category *(a)* A and *(b)* B bookmakers. Application and annual fees for all sectors of the gambling industry, by category of operator, have been published in The Gambling (Operating Licence and Single-Machine permit Fees) Regulations 2006 [No. 3284] and The Gambling (Operating Licence and Single-Machine Permit Fees (Amendment) Regulations 2007 [No. 269]. The fees will apply to operating licences that take effect from 1 September 2007 and reflect the estimated costs for the Gambling Commission to undertake its necessary regulatory activities in respect of each sector of the gambling industry. The fees will be kept under review in the light of experience of operating the new regulatory and licensing regime.

Channel Four Television: Archives

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received on Channel 4's public service obligations in relation to the purchase of 20th Century Fox's film archives; and if she will make a statement. [138535]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received no such representations.

Coastal Areas: Tourism

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of visits made to the English coast for the purpose of outdoor recreation in each of the last three years. [138537]

Mr. Woodward: Information on visits to the English coast for the specific purpose of outdoor recreation is not available. However, the tables show (i) the number of domestic overnight trips and (ii) the number of day visits to the English coast for all purposes for the latest years for which data are available. Information on inbound visits to the English coast by overseas residents is not collected.

Domestic overnight trips by UK residents[1] — English seaside

	Million
2003	23.7
2004	28.4
2005	25.7

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which is thought to be an under-representation of the true position.

Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards).

Number of day visits by English residents[1], 2005

	Leisure visits[2]	*Million Tourism visits[3]*
Seaside town/city	170	47
Seaside coast	70	15

[1] It is not possible to provide a time series for this information as the surveys are run intermittently.
[2] Defined as a round trip made from home for leisure purposes with no time limit or minimum distance travelled.
[3] A subset of leisure visits defined as a round trip made from home which lasts for more than three hours and is not taken regularly.

Source:
England Leisure Visits Survey 2005.

Cricket: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much financial support Sport England will provide for Cricket's Chance to Shine programme in each year until the 2012 Olympics. [138704]

Mr. Caborn: Sport England have invested £2 million in the Cricket Foundation's "Chance to Shine" programme since November 2005. Future funding remains subject to the Cricket Foundation meeting previously agreed criteria and performance indicators, and to the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Culture: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of preparations for Capital of Culture in Liverpool. [138318]

Mr. Lammy: When I visited Liverpool on 15 May I received a presentation from the Liverpool Culture Company. I was very impressed with the progress made to date and look forward to receiving further updates on the exciting events planned in due course.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by her Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138463]

Mr. Lammy: Information correct at 16 May 2007. In response to part *(a)* no agencies are undertaking work commissioned by the Department. For part *(b)* and its subsequent questions, the following consultancies are currently undertaking work commissioned by the Department:

Consultancy	*Work*	*Cost (£)*
Atisreal	Disposal of land to the north of the British Library	246,000
Euclid	Nominated cultural contact point for European Commission	110,000
Odgers, Ray and Berndston	Recruitment of chair of the Olympic Delivery Authority	35,000
Saxton Bamfylde Hever	Recruitment of chair of English Heritage	36,000
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Assessment of the costs and benefits of the World Heritage Site (UK)	69,000
Trauma Training	Survey of local capability in humanitarian response to emergency (UK)	28,000
Deloittes	Review of the Olympic Programme Support Unit	99,000

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects the first payments from the scheme outlined in the Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Bill to be made to older and disabled people. [138298]

Mr. Woodward: Whitehaven will be the first area to begin digital switchover. Those eligible for the help scheme in Whitehaven have already been contacted and will begin to receive assistance once a contractor has been appointed to run the scheme on behalf of the BBC. We expect this to take place in the summer.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration she has given to the merits of providing support to pensioner households for the costs incurred in the switchover to digital television. [137928]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* A substantial body of research has been carried out to inform the scope of the help scheme. This suggests that age and disability are the most important indicators of lower digital TV take up.

The DCMS Taking Part survey shows an adult take-up rate of 75 per cent. This falls very significantly for those over 75—just 45.6 per cent.—whereas the take-up rate for those aged 65-74 (65.6 per cent.) is much closer to the national figure. This shows that we are targeting our help on those who are most likely to need it.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 104-5W, on digital television, how many qualifying households in each parliamentary constituency in Wales will be required to pay a £40 fee to access assistance. [138148]

Mr. Woodward: The information is not available in the form requested.

We estimate about 42 per cent. of Welsh households eligible for help will qualify for free assistance under the Digital Switchover Help Scheme; 58 per cent. of Welsh households eligible for help will qualify for assistance to which there is a £40 charge.

National Lottery Distribution Fund

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the current balance is of the National Lottery Distribution Fund. [138705]

Mr. Caborn: The overall National Lottery Distribution Fund balance at 30 April 2007, subject to audit and rounded to the nearest £1 million, was £1,762 million. This is the latest figure available and represents the sum of the balances held in the fund on behalf of all the non-Olympic distributing bodies.

National Sports Foundation: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding will be available to the National Sports Foundation in each year until the 2012 Olympics. [138703]

Mr. Caborn: The level of funding available to the National Sports Foundation in each year beyond 2007-08 will not be decided upon until the outcome of the current Comprehensive Spending Review is known.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reason the three transport projects referred to in note 1 of the minutes of the Olympic cost review steering group of 28 November 2005 were transferred from the Olympic Delivery Authority to Transport for London. [133635]

Tessa Jowell: These transport projects were not transferred to Transport for London.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date and for what reason the decision was taken to cancel the meetings of the Olympic cost review steering group planned for 8 December 2005 and 12 December 2005. [133645]

Tessa Jowell: In late 2005, in consultation with other stakeholders, I asked the Minister for Sport to chair a separate cost review to take forward the work of the steering group and to examine the Olympic budget in more detail.

The original steering group was not therefore re-convened.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what issues her Department was negotiating with the Treasury on taxes, as stated in point 1 of the minutes of the Olympic cost review steering group of 14 November 2005; and whether these negotiations included discussions on VAT. [133666]

Tessa Jowell: In November 2005 the Department was discussing with HM Treasury the tax position of the then proposed Olympic Delivery Authority. This included discussion of VAT.

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent to date on construction projects in preparation for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [136236]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) officially came into existence on the 30 March 2006, and started work on the 1 April 2006. The vast majority of the construction work is due to start from summer 2008, although a significant amount of preparatory activity has taken place including enabling works, infrastructure delivery, venue design, planning, integration with the Stratford City development, and transport planning. As is consistent with other non-departmental public bodies, the ODA will be publishing its expenditure figures in its annual report, and this will be available before the summer recess.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans are in place to ensure that the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be able to be seen in the UK on high definition. [138440]

Mr. Woodward: The London Organising Committee for the Olympic games and Paralympic games and the broadcasters are committed to recording and transmitting the games in high definition.

Playing Fields

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what responsibilities Sport England has with regard to the protection of public playing fields. [138706]

Mr. Caborn: Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications for proposals to develop playing fields with an area of 0.4 hectares or more. The Department for Communities and Local Government has committed to consulting on reducing this threshold to 0.2 hectares. That consultation is intended to take place later this year.

Playing Fields: Hackney

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions have taken place between Sport England and the London Borough of Hackney on the future of the playing fields at Hackney Marshes; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [138707]

Mr. Caborn: The future of the playing fields at Hackney Marshes has been discussed at periodic meetings of the Hackney Marshes Sports Facilities Improvement (Olympic Legacy) Steering Group. These meetings, which began in 2005, are co-ordinated by officers of the London borough of Hackney and the London Development Agency (LDA). Sport England is among the stakeholders contributing to these discussions, which also include the Football Association, the National Playing Fields Association and the London Playing Fields Foundation.

Work with consultants has been progressing to develop a draft sports strategy for the Hackney Marshes to provide new changing accommodation and substantially improved sports facilities to attract increased community participation in sport in the area. The London borough of Hackney and the LDA are planning to announce public consultations on their draft sports strategy within the next few months.

Public Places: Licensing

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many local authorities have signed up to the new register for licensed public spaces; and how many have done so since March 2007. [138297]

Mr. Woodward: At the launch of the Register of Licensed Public Spaces in England and Wales on 15 January 2007, 106 local authorities signed up. Since then, a further 54 local authorities have provided information to be included on the register, 11 of these since March 2007.

Sports: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made with proposals for a sporting village in Chorley; and if she will make a statement. [138566]

Mr. Caborn: Sport England is still assessing the potential of Community Sports Hubs (formerly referred to as 'sports villages') as a new, innovative and sustainable model for community sports provision. Once feasibility studies are completed and the model proven, Sport England will begin to work with a number local authorities to roll out the concept.

Stonehenge

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when work will commence on the Stonehenge Visitors Centre; and if she will make a statement. [138404]

Mr. Lammy: Planning consent was granted for the Stonehenge Visitor Centre subject to conditions, one of which is that improvements to the A303 go ahead, as set out in the published Stonehenge Improvement Order 2000. The Government are considering the findings of the A303 Review of Options and will make an announcement in due course on the way forward. Our intention remains that we find a solution for Stonehenge which will respect the status of Stonehenge as a World Heritage Site and which is affordable and deliverable.

Tourists: Australia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists visited the UK from *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand in each of the last 10 years. [138212]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows the number of visits to the UK from Australian and New Zealand residents for the latest years for which data is available. These figures include holidays, business trips and visits to friends and relatives.

Total inbound visits

Thousand

	Australia	*New Zealand*
1996	650	132
1997	684	148
1998	603	166
1999	728	193
2000	111	174
2001	694	151
2002	702	137
2003	723	144
2004	787	174
2005	919	210
2006 (provisional data)	911	221

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

VisitBritain

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the impact of VisitBritain's recent decision on staff redundancies upon her Department's target of creating a £100 billion tourism industry by 2010; and if she will make a statement. [138846]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain intends to improve focus on new and emerging markets, reflecting developments in customer demand. DCMS was fully informed of the reorganisation. These changes will improve VisitBritain's ability to promote Britain to overseas visitors, and to support the tourism industry's progress towards the target of £100 billion turnover.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the decision regarding the future aircraft carriers will be made; and if he will make a statement. [137777]

Mr. Ingram: The main investment decision will be taken when we are confident that we have a robust, affordable deal. We are making good progress, together with industry, including on the possible joint venture between BAE Systems and VT Group.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed service personnel *(a)* died and *(b)* were killed between 1 April 1998 and 31 March 2004. [138527]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 21 May 2007]*: Between 1 April 1998 and 31 March 2004, there were 906 deaths among regular UK armed forces personnel. Of these, 522 were killed by accidental or violent causes (excluding coroner-confirmed suicide and open verdict deaths).

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of accommodation provided by his Department to those of the rank of *(a)* General, *(b)* Lieutenant General, *(c)* Major General, *(d)* Brigadier, *(e)* Colonel, *(f)* Lieutenant Colonel, *(g)* Major and *(h)* Captain is considered to be of Standard 1 condition; [137728]

(2) what percentage of accommodation provided by his Department to those of the rank of *(a)* general, *(b)* lieutenant general, *(c)* major general, *(d)* brigadier, *(e)* colonel, *(f)* lieutenant colonel, *(g)* major and *(h)* captain is considered to be of Standard 4 condition. [138313]

Derek Twigg: Service Families Accommodation (SFA) is provided in accordance with the published Tri-Service Accommodation Regulations. The Standard for Condition of each Type of SFA, along with the Army ranks entitled to it, is shown in the following table:

SFA	Rank	Standard 1 for Condition	Standard 2 for Condition	Standard 3 for Condition	Percentage Standard 4 for Condition
Type 1	General, LtGen	29	46	25	0
Type 2	Maj Gen, Brig, Col	46	41	12	1
Type 3	Brig, Col, LtCol	54	40	6	0
Type 4	Major	53	42	4	1
Type 5S	Major	36	53	5	1
Type 5	Captain and below	57	40	2	1

Note: All figures are rounded to the nearest whole per cent. Some Type 5 Special SFA is not categorised, so the percentage figures do not add up to 100.

The Type of SFA offered to Captain (and below) can be affected by their number of dependants.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures apart from retention initiatives his Department is implementing to increase armed forces manpower. [138775]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 346-47W.

Armed Forces: Voluntary Organisations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 749W, on Armed Forces: voluntary organisations, on what basis the fee was waived for the charity event organised by Sergeant Biddiss and held at RAF Brize Norton in March 2006. [137547]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Winter Sports

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which ranks of the armed services attended the Army Ski Championships in 2007. [137127]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 May 2007]*: All Army ranks from private soldier to Major participated in the Army Ski Championships, with predominance on the lower ranks—Private, Lance Corporal and Corporal. The Officials organising the event ranged in rank from Sergeant to Brigadier.

A number of senior officers made brief visits to the Championship including the Chief of the General Staff in his capacity as the President of the Army Winter Sports Association.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the costs of holding the 2007 Army Ski Championships were met. [137130]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 May 2007]*: The costs of the Army Skiing Championships are met from a combination of public, commercial sponsorship and non-public funds. The non-public element included contributions from the Army Winter Sports Association funds, Army Sports Lottery grants and individuals.

Astute Class Submarines

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the design life is of the Astute class of submarine. [138382]

Mr. Ingram: Astute is due to enter service with the Royal Navy in 2009, and has a planned service life of 25 years.

Cadets: Recruitment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria he uses to assess the effectiveness of the Combined Cadet Force as a recruitment tool for the regular armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [138385]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1848W-49W to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper). The Combined Cadet Force is not a recruiting organisation. Therefore while we maintain annual records of overall numbers, MOD does not keep records of the subsequent careers of any cadets.

All the MOD sponsored cadet forces give young people the chance to develop their potential through interesting and challenging opportunities they would not normally experience while also developing an understanding of the values, customs and role of the armed forces. Young people also learn the importance of making a positive contribution to society. The skills and qualities of leadership, responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance developed through membership of the cadet forces are a benefit to the cadets whatever career they choose to follow.

Chelsea Barracks: Sales

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Chelsea barracks were sold for; and how the net proceeds of the sale will be disposed of. [138808]

Des Browne: Contracts for sale of Chelsea Barracks were exchanged in April with completion expected in January 2008. The price obtained remains commercial-in-confidence until then. No decision has yet been made on the use of the receipts which will be taken into account in the next planning round.

Colchester Garrison: Security

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost is of erecting a security fence at the Middlewick Firing Ranges, Colchester Garrison. [137888]

Derek Twigg: The estimated cost is £108,000. More detailed costs will be available once planning approval has been received and a more detailed specification has been established.

Defence Activities: Scotland

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel are employed by his Department in Scotland. [118682]

Mr. Ingram: Figures for UK regular forces located in Scotland are available in Table 12 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 10: UK regular forces distribution across UK. Copies of TSP 10 are available in the Library of the House and also at

www.dasa.mod.uk

TSP 10 is published quarterly.

The most recent publication for the Army and Naval Service figures was on 1 October 2006, and shows the Naval Service had 3,800 personnel in Scotland and the Army had 3,440. The publication can be found at

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp10/tsp10_oct06r.pdf

The most recent data for the RAF is from 1 April 2006, which shows a provisional estimate of 5,840 RAF personnel posted in Scotland. These figures are available at

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp10/tsp10_apr06.pdf

There have been no major RAF base closures or squadron transfers into or out of Scotland since April 2006; however, the RAF drawdown across the UK has reduced total RAF numbers from 48,730 in April 2006 to 45,560 in March 2007.

The following table shows the number of civilian personnel working in Scotland from April 2006 to January 2007.

Full-time equivalence civilian personnel by Government Office Region: Scotland

	2006			
	April	*July*	*October*	*January 2007*
MOD (excl. Trading Funds)	6,360	6,300	6,190	6,100
Trading Funds	560	550	550	550
Total[1]	6,920	6,850	6,740	6,650

[1] This total includes Trading Funds but excludes Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.

Notes:

1. Full time equivalence counts part-time staff by the number of hours they work as proportion of their full-time conditioned hours.
2. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Defence Equipment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Bailey Bridge sections are available for immediate use. [137912]

Mr. Ingram: The MOD does not hold any Bailey Bridge sections. This equipment has been replaced by the Logistic Support Bridge.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Main Estimates 2007-08, HC 438, if he will break down Request for Resources *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 expenditure provision by sub-head in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [137345]

Mr. Ingram: The following table provides a breakdown of the Requests for Resources of the Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2007-08, HC 438, by sub-head showing all categories of expenditure.

Ministry of Defence Breakdown of Main Estimates 2007-08—Resource e stimates

TLB	Estimate type	Main estimates (£000)
Commander-in-Chief Fleet[1]	Resource DEL near cash	2,109,978
	Resource DEL non-cash	1,548
	Total DEL	2,111,526
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
Total Commander-in-Chief Fleet		2,111,526
Commander-in-Chief Land Command[2]	Resource DEL near cash	5,773,049
	Resource DEL non-cash	12,667
	Total DEL	5,785,716
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non-cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
Total Commander-in-Chief Land Command		5,785,716
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command	Resource DEL near cash	1,737,517
	Resource DEL non-cash	1,163
	Total DEL	1,738,680
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non-cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
Total Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command		1,738,680
Chief of Joint Operations	Resource DEL near cash	415,604
	Resource DEL non-cash	3,239
	Total DEL	418,843
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	3,599
	Total AME	3,599
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non-cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
Total Chief of Joint Operations		422,442
Adjutant General	Resource DEL near cash	850,891
	Resource DEL non-cash	-92,230
	Total DEL	758,661
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	9,254
	Non Budget non-cash	0
	Total Non Budget	9,254
Total Adjutant General		767,915
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command	Resource DEL near cash	768,985
	Resource DEL non-cash	1,190
	Total DEL	770,175
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non-cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
Total Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command		770,715
Central	Resource DEL near cash	2,062,494
	Resource DEL non-cash	132,053
	Total DEL	2,194,547
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	3,899
	Total AME	3,899
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non-cash	750
	Total Non Budget	750
Total Central		2,199,196
Science and Technology	Resource DEL near cash	546,009

Ministry of Defence Breakdown of Main Estimates 2007-08—Resource e stimates

TLB	Estimate type	Main estimates (£000)
	Resource DEL non-cash	-4,891
	Total DEL	541,118
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non-cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
Total Science and Technology		541,118
Defence Estates	Resource DEL near cash	935,317
	Resource DEL non-cash	1,562,269
	Total DEL	2,497,586
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	3,141
	Non Budget non-cash	0
	Total Non Budget	5,045
Total Defence Estates		2,500,727
Defence Equipment and Support[3]	Resource DEL near cash	6,686,319
	Resource DEL non-cash	9,000,691
	Total DEL	15,687,010
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	83,696
	Total AME	83,696
	Non Budget near cash	-4
	Non Budget non-cash	0
	Total Non Budget	-4
Total Defence Equipment and Support		15,770,702
Total RfR1	Resource DEL near cash	21,886,163
	Resource DEL non-cash	10,617,699
	Total DEL	32,503,862
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	91,194
	Total AME	91,194
	Non Budget near cash	12,391
	Non Budget non-cash	750
	Total Non Budget	13,141
Total RfR1		32,608,197

Ministry of Defence Breakdown of Main Estimates 2007-08—Resource e stimates

TLB	Estimate type	Main estimates (£000)
Conflict Prevention RfR2	Resource DEL near cash	44,303
	Resource DEL non-cash	0
	Total DEL	44,303
	AME near cash	0
	AME non-cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non-cash	0
	Capital Non Budget	0
	Total Non Budget	0
Total Conflict Prevention RfR2		44,303
War Pensions and Benefits RfR3	Resource DEL near cash	0
	Resource DEL non-cash	0
	Total DEL	0
	AME near cash	1,026,982
	AME non-cash	25
	Total AME	1,027,007
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non-cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
Total War Pensions and Benefits RfR3		1,027,007
MOD Resource Total		33,679,507

Capital estimates

TLB	Main estimates (£000)
RfR1 Capital DEL	
Commander-in-Chief Fleet[1]	50,458
Commander-in-Chief Land Command[2]	239,111
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command	79,823
Chief of Joint Operations	61,322
Adjutant General	28,407
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command	28,867
Central	14,545
Defence Estates	-110,528
Defence Equipment and Support	7,155,621
Total RfR1 Capital DEL	7,547,626
RfR1 Capital Non-Budget	
Defence Estates	1,904
RfR2	0

Capital estimates

TLB	*Main estimates (£000)*
RfR3	0
Total Capital Estimates	7,549,530

[1] In 2006-07, 2nd Sea Lord/Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command TLB was merged with Commander-in-Chief Fleet TLB.
[2] In 2007-08, General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland) TLB was merged with Commander-in-Chief Land Command TLB.
[3] In 2007-08, the Defence Procurement Agency and the Defence Logistics Organisation were merged to form Defence Equipment and Support TLB.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which assets of his Department were disposed of in the Portsmouth area in each of the last three years; and what the timetable for further disposals programme is. [136559]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence property assets that were disposed of by Defence Estates in the Portsmouth area for the last three financial years are as follows:

2006-07

Clayhall Cottage, 51 Clayhall Road

Defence Munitions Dean Hill, Main Site and adjacent land

RNMT Depot, Hilsea

2005-06

HMS Daedalus Technical Site and Residual Airfield areas

HMS Daedalus Main Airfield area

Fleet Photographic Unit, Stamshaw

Footbridge above Nimrod Drive (Rowner Footbridge)

Portsmouth Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Service Families Accommodation

(SFA) Phase 1, Daedalus

Small plot of land adjacent to Eastney Sports Ground

Strip of land at 54 Military Road, Gosport

Small parcel of land at OFD Gosport

2004-05

The Brambles, 44 Marine Parade West, Lee-on-the-Solent

1-46 Rodney Close, Rowner, Gosport, Hampshire

Land at Seafield Park, Stubbington, Hampshire

The current and future disposal program in the Portsmouth area is as follows:

Portsmouth PFI SFA Phase 2, Daedalus

Frater House and Civil Service Sports Ground, Gosport

Royal Clarence Yard (RE Depot), Gosport

Land at Bell Davies Road, Seafield Park, Stubbington

Service Families Accommodation land at Titchfield

Royal Hospital Haslar

Small Plot of Land adjacent to Eastney Sports Ground

Helicopters: Costs

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* acquisition cost and *(b)* average operating cost per hour is of the (i) RAF and (ii) Royal Navy version of the Merlin helicopter. [137620]

Mr. Ingram: The acquisition cost of the RAF operated Merlin Mk 3 is around £19 million and for the RN operated Merlin Mk 1 is around £39 million.

The large price differential is due to the inclusion of the sophisticated anti-submarine mission avionics, which are an integral part of the weapons system in the Merlin Mk1.

The total operating cost per hour is approximately £34,000 for the Merlin Mk 3 and is approximately £42,000 for the Merlin Mk 1. These figures include both fixed and marginal costs, comprising servicing costs, fuel costs, crew capitation and training costs, support costs and charges for capital and depreciation.

Helicopters: Peace Keeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours downtime for maintenance or due to fatigue the *(a)* Lynx, *(b)* Merlin and *(c)* Sea King helicopters had during 2006 in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan; and what percentage of hours flown in that period that figure represents. [137621]

Mr. Ingram: Information on the number of hours downtime for maintenance or due to fatigue for Lynx, Merlin and Sea King helicopters deployed during 2006 in Iraq and Afghanistan is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Lynx helicopters have been taken out of service *(a)* to update counter measures, *(b)* to fit electronic counter measures and *(c)* to fit infra red jammers in the last five years. [137377]

Mr. Ingram: No Lynx helicopters have been taken out of front-line service to be modified. They have been modified during scheduled maintenance activities, or during planned modifications programmes that work around the deployment and training requirements.

We do not comment in detail about the defensive systems fitted to our aircraft in order to safeguard our personnel serving on operations.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK fatalities in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been attributed to the inadequate protection of vehicles with inadequate protection from roadside bombs. [135901]

Des Browne: No UK fatalities from roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan have been directly attributed to inadequately protected vehicles. Protection is provided through a combination of tactics, techniques and procedures as well as armour and other technical means. However, even with all of these measures employed, absolute protection can never be 100 per cent. guaranteed.

Military Bases: Visits

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the occasions in the last 12 months where Ministers have approved visits to barracks by hon. Members. [134153]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Astute-class submarines he plans to order; and what their projected in-service dates are expected to be. [138525]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* Three Astute class submarines are on order with BAES (Submarine Solutions), and I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 55-56WS, about boat 4. Further boat orders are currently being considered, subject to affordability. We are working with industry as part of the Defence Industrial Strategy to achieve an affordable and sustainable submarine programme.

The planned in-service date for the first of class, Astute, is 2009. The second of class, Ambush, will follow in 2010, and the third of class, Artful, in 2012.

Sudan: Armed Forces

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces of Sudan attended UK military establishments in each of the last three years. [138774]

Mr. Ingram: In support of the 2005 comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/ Army, the Ministry of Defence has provided training to the Joint Integrated Units (JIU), consisting of the Government of Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. The JIUs are critical to strengthening the fragile peace that exists between the CPA's parties. Between financial years 2004-05 and 2006-07, 11 mid and senior ranking members of the JIU have attended UK military establishments to undertake courses on managing defence in a democracy and collective training. This can be broken down by financial year as follows: two in financial year 2004-05; nil in financial year 2005-06 and nine in financial year 2006-07.

Tanks: Peace Keeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost per track/road mile, excluding crew costs, of operating the *(a)* Challenger 2 Tank, *(b)* Mastiff and *(c)* Bulldog in Iraq. [137619]

Mr. Ingram: Operational track mile cost data are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The full capitation cost for the Challenger 2 Tank (all variants) based on peacetime usage is calculated as £496.15 per kilometre.

Costs for the Mastiff and Bulldog are not currently available as these vehicles have only recently entered service.

War Pensions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average waiting time was for the Veterans Agency to settle claims to personnel entitled to payments in each year since 1997. [131713]

Derek Twigg: Average clearance times for all claims made under the war pensions scheme since financial year 2000-01 were as follows:

	Working days
2000-01	92
2001-02	73
2002-03	63
2003-04	61
2004-05	57
2005-06	52
2006-07	49

Prior to 2000-01 performance data was gathered on a different basis and average clearance times were not recorded. Performance was measured against a target of 145 working days, and the percentage of claims cleared within this target was as follows:

	Percentage
1997-98	74.50
1998-99	76.02
1999-2000	75.59

The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) was introduced in 2005-06. In the introductory year of the scheme, no overall average clearance time figure was produced. In 2006-07 the average clearance time under the AFCS was 34 days.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Building Schools for the Future Programme: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding his Department plans to allocate to East Sussex Local Education Authority for the Building Schools for the Future programme in the next phase of the programme. [138025]

Jim Knight: East Sussex has projects prioritised in waves 10 to 15 of the Building Schools for the Future programme which may access funding from 2014-15, depending on future public spending decisions. No decisions have yet been made on funding for these projects. We aim to consult later this year on the management of waves seven onwards of the programme.

Because of its late prioritisation in the programme, East Sussex has been offered £30 million of One School Pathfinder funding to renew its neediest secondary school. This funding is available from this year.

Over the last three years (2005-06 until 2007-08), East Sussex and its schools have been allocated £55 million of capital support for investment in their buildings.

Disabled Students' Allowances

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many people *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received disabled students' allowance in each of the last five years; [138388]

(2) what the average length of time was between application and receipt of disabled students' allowance funding in the latest year for which figures are available. [138390]

Bill Rammell: Applications for disabled students' allowances (DSA) are dealt with by local authorities and the Student Loans Company (SLC); information about the number of people who applied is not held centrally. Available data on English domiciled higher education students in receipt of DSA[1] are given in the table.

[1] Data relate to Student Support Scheme students and include full-time, part-time, and postgraduate DSA.

Academic year	*Number of HE students in receipt of DSAs*[1]
2001/02	18,600
2002/03	24,600
2003/04[2]	n/a
2004/05	32,400
2005/06	35,500

[1] Numbers rounded to the nearest 100 students.
[2] Due to a change in reporting arrangements, data are not centrally available for 2003/04.
Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC)

The target turnaround for all applications for student support is six weeks. Applications for DSA tend to take longer because they involve a specialist assessment to determine course related needs. We do not set and monitor specific DSA processing times, but we have given advice to local authorities and the SLC to prioritise DSA applications with the aim of achieving payment of DSA in advance of the start of term for those who need it.

Education: Irish Studies

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* funding and *(b)* assistance he has approved to aid the establishment of Irish studies centres since 2004. [138575]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* We have increased funding by over 20 per cent. in real terms since 1997 and now spend £10 billion a year on higher education, but we cannot by law fund Irish studies centres or any other centres directly since each higher education institution is responsible for spending the block grant we provide through the Higher Education Funding Council for England as it sees fit and for deciding how to organise teaching and research and the subjects to be studied, taking account of student demand.

Education: Standards

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007 to the Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton, *Official Report*, column 1565W, on education: standards, (1) if he will break the figures on the number of schools down by local education authority indicating in each case how many *(a)* selective, *(b)* partially selective and *(c)* comprehensive maintained secondary schools there are in each such authority; [137400]

(2) if he will break the figures on the number of pupils down to local education authority indicating in each case how many *(a)* selective, *(b)* partially selective and *(c)* comprehensive maintained secondary schools each such authority contains. [137401]

Jim Knight: The information is shown in the following tables.

Teacher assessment is not available for 2006.

				Number of schools with: More than 20 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2		
	Local authority	*Number of selective schools*	*Number of non-selective maintained mainstream*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*
202	Camden	0	9	2	0	8
203	Greenwich	0	13	2	1	10
204	Hackney	0	11	2	0	7
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	0	8	1	1	3
206	Islington	0	9	1	1	8
207	Kensington and Chelsea	0	4	0	0	3
208	Lambeth	0	11	1	0	9
209	Lewisham	0	13	3	0	10
210	Southwark	0	16	2	1	11
211	Tower Hamlets	0	15	6	0	15
212	Wandsworth	0	11	2	0	6
213	Westminster	0	9	2	0	3
301	Barking and Dagenham	0	9	4	0	8
302	Barnet	3	17	0	0	9
303	Bexley	4	12	6	0	11
304	Brent	0	14	2	1	8
305	Bromley	2	16	4	0	9
306	Croydon	0	22	5	0	14
307	Ealing	0	13	2	0	7
308	Enfield	1	16	5	0	13
309	Haringey	0	11	2	1	9
310	Harrow	0	10	0	0	5
311	Havering	0	18	4	0	12
312	Hillingdon	0	18	11	0	12
313	Hounslow	0	14	4	0	6
314	Kingston upon Thames	2	8	1	0	1
315	Merton	0	8	1	0	2
316	Newham	0	15	3	1	13

	Local authority	Number of selective schools	Number of non-selective maintained mainstream	Number of schools with: More than 20 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2		
				English	Maths	Science
317	Redbridge	2	15	0	0	6
318	Richmond upon Thames	0	8	2	0	6
319	Sutton	5	9	0	0	5
320	Waltham Forest	0	17	1	0	12
330	Birmingham	8	68	21	3	58
331	Coventry	0	19	5	0	16
332	Dudley	0	22	2	0	12
333	Sandwell	0	19	7	1	18
334	Solihull	0	14	2	0	6
335	Walsall	2	17	6	0	11
336	Wolverhampton	1	17	5	0	16
340	Knowsley	0	10	9	0	10
341	Liverpool	1	30	9	2	22
342	St. Helens	0	10	4	0	8
343	Sefton	0	22	5	0	13
344	Wirral	6	16	3	1	16
350	Bolton	0	16	7	1	11
351	Bury	0	14	4	0	6
352	Manchester	0	23	11	2	22
353	Oldham	0	15	6	0	11
354	Rochdale	0	14	1	1	12
355	Salford	0	15	9	0	12
356	Stockport	0	14	3	0	7
357	Tameside	0	18	4	1	16
358	Trafford	7	11	3	0	8
359	Wigan	0	21	7	0	16
370	Barnsley	0	14	5	0	10
371	Doncaster	0	17	10	0	13
372	Rotherham	0	16	7	0	14
373	Sheffield	0	27	9	0	16
380	Bradford	0	29	10	0	25
381	Calderdale	2	13	3	1	12
382	Kirklees	1	24	9	0	15
383	Leeds	0	39	10	1	29
384	Wakefield	0	18	3	0	14
390	Gateshead	0	11	2	0	9
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	0	12	6	2	10
392	North Tyneside	0	11	4	0	8
393	South Tyneside	0	10	2	0	8
394	Sunderland	0	18	5	1	16
420	Isles of Scilly	0	1	0	0	0
800	Bath and North East Somerset	0	13	4	0	3
801	Bristol, City of	0	18	6	2	13
802	North Somerset	0	10	2	0	4
803	South Gloucestershire	0	16	1	0	8
805	Hartlepool	0	6	2	0	5
806	Middlesbrough	0	9	4	0	8
807	Redcar and Cleveland	0	11	6	0	8
808	Stockton-on-Tees	0	14	6	0	10

	Local authority	Number of selective schools	Number of non-selective maintained mainstream	Number of schools with: More than 20 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2		
				English	Maths	Science
810	Kingston upon Hull, City of	0	14	6	3	13
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	0	18	3	0	7
812	North East Lincolnshire	0	12	9	0	11
813	North Lincolnshire	0	14	4	0	9
815	North Yorkshire	3	40	10	0	11
816	York	0	11	1	0	2
820	Bedfordshire	0	17	4	0	10
821	Luton	0	12	4	0	11
825	Buckinghamshire	13	21	2	0	13
826	Milton Keynes	0	12	2	0	5
830	Derbyshire	0	47	11	0	23
831	Derby	0	14	4	0	8
835	Dorset	0	23	1	0	8
836	Poole	2	6	0	0	3
837	Bournemouth	2	8	3	0	6
840	Durham	0	36	18	0	27
841	Darlington	0	7	3	0	4
845	East Sussex	0	27	8	1	17
846	Brighton and Hove	0	9	5	0	7
850	Hampshire	0	71	9	0	36
851	Portsmouth	0	10	3	1	9
852	Southampton	0	14	4	0	13
855	Leicestershire	0	39	0	0	8
856	Leicester	0	16	6	1	12
857	Rutland	0	3	0	0	1
860	Staffordshire	0	56	10	0	35
861	Stoke-on-Trent	1	16	6	0	16
865	Wiltshire	2	27	5	0	9
866	Swindon	0	10	3	1	5
867	Bracknell Forest	0	6	1	0	4
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	0	9	2	0	4
869	West Berkshire	0	10	0	0	2
870	Reading	2	5	1	0	3
871	Slough	4	7	3	0	6
872	Wokingham	0	9	0	0	3
873	Cambridgeshire	0	29	4	1	15
874	Peterborough	0	14	6	0	11
875	Cheshire	0	43	12	2	22
876	Halton	0	8	4	0	7
877	Warrington	0	12	2	0	5
878	Devon	1	36	7	0	17
879	Plymouth	3	14	5	1	8
880	Torbay	3	5	2	0	4
881	Essex	4	76	17	0	51
882	Southend-on-Sea	4	8	1	0	4
883	Thurrock	0	10	2	0	7
884	Herefordshire	0	14	2	0	6
885	Worcestershire	0	29	5	0	9
886	Kent	33	72	26	1	56

	Local authority	Number of selective schools	Number of non-selective maintained mainstream	Number of schools with: More than 20 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2		
				English	Maths	Science
887	Medway	6	13	4	0	13
888	Lancashire	4	80	17	0	40
889	Blackburn with Darwen	0	10	2	0	6
890	Blackpool	0	8	1	0	8
891	Nottinghamshire	0	47	17	1	36
892	Nottingham	0	18	9	5	16
893	Shropshire	0	22	4	0	8
894	Telford and Wrekin	2	12	3	0	10
908	Cornwall	0	31	4	0	9
909	Cumbria	1	41	10	1	24
916	Gloucestershire	7	35	8	1	18
919	Hertfordshire	0	76	10	0	38
921	Isle of Wight	0	5	1	0	5
925	Lincolnshire	15	48	8	1	29
926	Norfolk	0	52	13	0	23
928	Northamptonshire	0	39	8	1	21
929	Northumberland	0	15	0	0	8
931	Oxfordshire	0	34	7	0	14
933	Somerset	0	30	6	0	21
935	Suffolk	0	38	3	0	10
936	Surrey	0	53	10	0	27
937	Warwickshire	5	32	3	0	18
938	West Sussex	0	37	5	0	19
	Total	164	2,983	729	48	1,849

	Local authority	Number of schools with: More than 33 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2			More than 40 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2		
		English	Maths	Science	English	Maths	Science
202	Camden	0	0	2	0	0	2
203	Greenwich	1	0	8	0	0	1
204	Hackney	0	0	4	0	0	2
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	2	0	0	1
206	Islington	0	0	5	0	0	3
207	Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0
208	Lambeth	0	0	1	0	0	0
209	Lewisham	0	0	6	0	0	2
210	Southwark	0	0	5	0	0	2
211	Tower Hamlets	2	0	12	0	0	7
212	Wandsworth	1	0	6	0	0	3
213	Westminster	0	0	2	0	0	1
301	Barking and Dagenham	0	0	5	0	0	2
302	Barnet	0	0	2	0	0	0
303	Bexley	0	0	4	0	0	2
304	Brent	0	0	3	0	0	1
305	Bromley	0	0	4	0	0	3
306	Croydon	2	0	7	0	0	4
307	Ealing	0	0	3	0	0	1
308	Enfield	1	0	5	0	0	3
309	Haringey	0	0	4	0	0	3

	Local authority	Number of schools with: More than 33 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2			More than 40 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2		
		English	Maths	Science	English	Maths	Science
310	Harrow	0	0	1	0	0	0
311	Havering	1	0	7	0	0	3
312	Hillingdon	3	0	8	2	0	3
313	Hounslow	0	0	2	0	0	2
314	Kingston upon Thames	1	0	1	1	0	0
315	Merton	0	0	2	0	0	1
316	Newham	0	0	7	0	0	3
317	Redbridge	0	0	1	0	0	1
318	Richmond upon Thames	0	0	2	0	0	1
319	Sutton	0	0	1	0	0	0
320	Waltham Forest	0	0	6	0	0	1
330	Birmingham	7	0	38	4	0	18
331	Coventry	1	0	9	0	0	2
332	Dudley	0	0	6	0	0	1
333	Sandwell	2	0	11	1	0	4
334	Solihull	0	0	5	0	0	2
335	Walsall	1	0	5	0	0	3
336	Wolverhampton	0	0	11	0	0	5
340	Knowsley	3	0	9	1	0	4
341	Liverpool	2	0	12	0	0	9
342	St. Helens	0	0	5	0	0	1
343	Sefton	2	0	5	2	0	3
344	Wirral	1	0	6	1	0	4
350	Bolton	1	0	6	1	0	4
351	Bury	1	0	3	0	0	2
352	Manchester	2	0	18	1	0	13
353	Oldham	2	0	7	1	0	6
354	Rochdale	0	0	4	0	0	1
355	Salford	0	0	6	0	0	4
356	Stockport	0	0	2	0	0	1
357	Tameside	0	0	8	0	0	5
358	Trafford	1	0	2	0	0	0
359	Wigan	1	0	5	0	0	1
370	Barnsley	1	0	2	0	0	2
371	Doncaster	1	0	8	0	0	3
372	Rotherham	1	0	4	1	0	1
373	Sheffield	2	0	10	0	0	5
380	Bradford	0	0	15	0	0	9
381	Calderdale	2	0	3	1	0	3
382	Kirklees	1	0	8	0	0	4
383	Leeds	5	0	14	2	0	9
384	Wakefield	0	0	7	0	0	2
390	Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0	0
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	2	0	5	2	0	2
392	North Tyneside	1	0	1	1	0	0
393	South Tyneside	0	0	5	0	0	4
394	Sunderland	0	0	9	0	0	4
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0
800	Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	1	0	0	0
801	Bristol, City of	2	0	10	0	0	6

	Local authority	Number of schools with: More than 33 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2			More than 40 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2		
		English	Maths	Science	English	Maths	Science
802	North Somerset	0	0	1	0	0	1
803	South Gloucestershire	0	0	4	0	0	0
805	Hartlepool	1	0	1	0	0	1
806	Middlesbrough	1	0	5	1	0	3
807	Redcar and Cleveland	3	0	3	0	0	0
808	Stockton-on-Tees	2	0	5	2	0	1
810	Kingston upon Hull, City of	2	0	11	1	0	9
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	1	0	3	0	0	1
812	North East Lincolnshire	0	0	5	0	0	4
813	North Lincolnshire	1	0	2	1	0	0
815	North Yorkshire	2	0	3	0	0	1
816	York	0	0	0	0	0	0
820	Bedfordshire	0	0	2	0	0	2
821	Luton	0	0	4	0	0	1
825	Buckinghamshire	0	0	2	0	0	1
826	Milton Keynes	1	0	3	0	0	2
830	Derbyshire	1	0	6	1	0	3
831	Derby	1	0	2	0	0	2
835	Dorset	0	0	2	0	0	0
836	Poole	0	0	2	0	0	2
837	Bournemouth	2	0	2	1	0	2
840	Durham	3	0	10	2	0	3
841	Darlington	2	0	2	0	0	2
845	East Sussex	2	0	6	0	0	4
846	Brighton and Hove	1	0	6	0	0	4
850	Hampshire	2	0	12	0	0	5
851	Portsmouth	0	0	6	0	0	5
852	Southampton	1	0	8	0	0	3
855	Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0
856	Leicester	0	0	6	0	0	4
857	Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	0
860	Staffordshire	0	0	7	0	0	2
861	Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	8	0	0	4
865	Wiltshire	2	0	2	0	0	0
866	Swindon	0	0	2	0	0	2
867	Bracknell Forest	0	0	1	0	0	1
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	1	0	1	0	0	0
869	West Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
870	Reading	0	0	1	0	0	1
871	Slough	0	0	1	0	0	1
872	Wokingham	0	0	0	0	0	0
873	Cambridgeshire	0	0	2	0	0	1
874	Peterborough	3	0	6	0	0	0
875	Cheshire	2	0	7	0	0	4
876	Halton	0	0	5	0	0	2
877	Warrington	1	0	2	0	0	0
878	Devon	3	0	3	1	0	1
879	Plymouth	1	0	5	0	0	3
880	Torbay	0	0	2	0	0	1
881	Essex	6	0	17	2	0	7
882	Southend-on-Sea	0	0	3	0	0	0
883	Thurrock	0	0	5	0	0	0
884	Herefordshire	0	0	1	0	0	1
885	Worcestershire	2	0	2	1	0	2
886	Kent	7	0	28	4	0	14
887	Medway	1	0	7	0	0	5
888	Lancashire	4	0	13	1	0	4
889	Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	4	0	0	1
890	Blackpool	0	0	4	0	0	2
891	Nottinghamshire	4	0	12	1	0	7
892	Nottingham	1	0	13	0	0	8
893	Shropshire	0	0	1	0	0	1
894	Telford and Wrekin	0	0	7	0	0	4
908	Cornwall	7	0	1	1	0	0
909	Cumbria	3	0	10	1	0	4
916	Gloucestershire	3	0	10	0	0	5
919	Hertfordshire	1	0	8	1	0	4
921	Isle of Wight	0	0	0	0	0	0
925	Lincolnshire	3	0	7	1	0	4
926	Norfolk	1	0	5	0	0	3
928	Northamptonshire	2	0	7	1	0	5
929	Northumberland	0	0	1	0	0	1
931	Oxfordshire	1	0	3	0	0	0
933	Somerset	1	0	1	1	0	0
935	Suffolk	1	0	1	0	0	0
936	Surrey	3	0	11	2	0	4
937	Warwickshire	1	0	8	0	0	2
938	West Sussex	0	0	6	0	0	3
	Total	145	—	788	49	—	385

Educational Attainment

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* maintained secondary schools and *(b)* independent secondary schools fell within each percentage point in terms of the proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who achieved grade C or above in GCSE (i) English, (ii) mathematics, (iii) a modern foreign language, (iv) history and (v) geography. [117656]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Home Education

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of children who receive education at home; and if he will make a statement. [138564]

Jim Knight: We do not collect information about the number of children whose education is arranged by their parents. A recent study on the prevalence of home education in England, conducted by York Consulting estimated that there were around 16,000 children being educated at home that were known to the local

authority. We have not made any estimate of the number of home educated children that are not known to their local authority.

Home Education: Standards

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what advice he has given local education authorities on monitoring the emotional and physical welfare of home-educated children. [138448]

Jim Knight: We have recently published draft guidelines which set out advice to local authorities and home educating parents on their respective responsibilities. In the guidelines we refer local authorities and all agencies to the principles set out in "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (Home Office/Department off Health/DfES/Welsh Office, 1999).

The guidelines also explain that section 175(1) of the Education Act 2002 requires local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. If there are welfare concerns about any child, including a home educated child, the local authority can insist on seeing the child concerned to make appropriate inquiries.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he has taken to ensure that education given at home is to the same standard as that in schools. [138565]

Jim Knight: The Government believe that for most children school is the best place for them to be educated. However, there are circumstances where parents choose to educate their children at home, and we respect the decisions that these parents have made. On 8 May we published draft guidelines for consultation which set out how local authorities can best support home educating parents.

Home educating parents must provide a suitable education for their children. Local authorities can make inquiries to establish whether suitable education is being provided, using section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996 to support their inquiries with a formal notice where necessary. The parents of any child who is not receiving an adequate education may be served with a school attendance order.

Learning and Skills Council for England

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which policy documents his Department has published since the establishment of the Learning and Skills Council that are relevant to its work. [138134]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally. Each year, the Department for Education and Skills Departmental Report lists publications it has produced. Copies of each of the departmental reports since April 2001, when the LSC became operational, are available in the House Library. In addition, in the Learning and Skills Council's Annual Grant Letter, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State sets out the key priorities for the year as well as the resources available.

Music: Teachers

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers have applied to the £2 million fund for the professional development of music teachers; and how much of that fund is expected to be spent. [138296]

Jim Knight: The contract to develop and deliver a programme of professional development for practitioners involved in music in primary schools was agreed with the Open University and Trinity College London after a tender exercise last autumn. Funding for the programme is for both the development and delivery of a national CPD programme, which is free for participants.

Every practitioner has a mentor and an individualised training programme. So far 356 applications have been received from people wanting to become training mentors and 203 people have already been trained. 760 applications have been received for the practitioner training, which began last month. Registrations can continue to be taken up to November 2007 and we expect that the funding available will all be spent by the end of this financial year.

Nurseries: Closures

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pre-schools have closed since the introduction of foundation stage units in each parliamentary constituency; and what assessment he has made of the impact of closures on parental choice of education provision. [132840]

Beverley Hughes: It is entirely a matter for local authorities how they organise pre-school provision in maintained settings. Some have, at different times, chosen to brigade provision for all foundation stage pupils together in what are sometimes described as "Foundation Stage Units".

Data in the form requested is therefore not collected centrally. The total number of pre-school child care providers has stayed the same between 2001 and 2005 at approximately 22,000, with the majority, 84 per cent., in the private, voluntary and independent sectors. (DfES Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2005.)

The Government are committed to ensuring that parents have access to a range of high quality early education providers so they are able to choose the type and pattern of early years and school provision which best meets their needs and those of their children.

Part-time Education

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of strategies adopted by higher education institutions in England to support part-time students; and if he will make a statement. [135989]

Bill Rammell: In 2006, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) reviewed widening participation initiatives for both full and

part-time study. I have placed a copy in the Library. The review identified significant progress; and emphasised good practice which HEFCE will disseminate to higher education institutions. HEFCE have allocated £53 million over two years (2006/07 to 2007/08) towards widening access for part-time students, and £56 million to improve their retention.

In September 2006 the Government improved the financial support available to part-time students, including a 27 per cent. increase in fee grant compared to 2005/06 and the introduction of discretionary additional fee support through the Access to Learning Fund. There are early indications that more part-time students are taking advantage of this financial support.

Between 2000/01 and 2005/06, the number of UK part-time undergraduate students has increased by 23 per cent. (the comparable increase in full-time students was 17 per cent.).

Prisons: Education

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many prisoners achieved *(a)* GCSEs, *(b)* A/S or A levels and *(c)* other qualifications in each of the last 15 years. [138185]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The introduction of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) through the Learning and Skills Council from 31 July 2006, means that data on offender achievement will increasingly become available for adults, young offenders and juveniles in custody, in England.

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were educated at some time during the year at a Pupil Referral Unit in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* local authority, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* gender and *(d)* age. [133783]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Pupils: Ethnic Groups

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the percentage change is in the proportion of children defined as black or minority ethnic in *(a)* denominational and *(b)* maintained schools in each English local education authority since 2000-01. [137768]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

A new set of codes to record the ethnicity of pupils was introduced in January 2002 consistent with the categories used in the 2001 national census. Schools were, however, permitted to report data on either the old or the new codes, between which there is no direct mapping. Therefore, the answer gives information on pupils' ethnicity from 2003 onwards to promote consistency.

Schools: Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 365-66W, on schools: combined heat and power, whether the £110 million allocated for the purpose of reducing carbon emissions as part of the refurbishment of secondary schools is ring-fenced. [138371]

Jim Knight: The funding of £110 million over three years to 2010-11 will be ring-fenced specifically for the purpose of reducing carbon emissions of school which will have at least 75 per cent. of their gross floor area rebuilt under the Building Schools for the Future programme, including academies.

The additional funding will reflect the size of the school and will provide about £500,000 for the average secondary school. The funding will be provided to the local authority specifically to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures that directly reduce schools' carbon emissions. We will set a target reduction in carbon emissions of a minimum of 60 per cent. for this investment. We are also exploring the potential for investing in measures to offset carbon emissions through regulated schemes which will help the push towards carbon neutrality.

Schools: International Cooperation

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on progress on twinning British schools with schools abroad. [138061]

Bill Rammell: Under the DfES International School Award (ISA) programme, 1,248 new schools have become involved since September 2006, bringing a total of 2,663 schools involved in the programme to date. To achieve the award schools must have an international school partner.

Schools: Sport

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what financial provision the Government have committed to provision of sport in schools. [138146]

Jim Knight: Government investment in the National School Sport Strategy has been £978.5 million in the five years to 2008. Funding beyond 2007-08 is currently being reviewed by the Secretary of State following the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement.

Teachers

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has held on vertical tutoring; and if he will make a statement. [138256]

Jim Knight: We have not held any recent discussions on vertical tutoring.

We want schools to provide a tailored education for every child and believe that the effective use of pupil grouping plays an important part in supporting that

aim. We have been encouraging schools to use setting and other forms of pupil grouping since 1997. But it will continue to be for schools to decide how and when to group and set pupils; both in tutor groups and/or lessons. That is the only practical approach.

We published a cluster of guidance documents alongside independent research into pupil grouping last September. The guidance includes a set of principles for grouping policy, definitions of different types of grouping and a self-evaluation toolkit.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people not in employment, education or training were aged *(a)* under 19, *(b)* under 21 and *(c)* under 25 years (i) in each constituency, (ii) local education authority and (iii) region in the latest period for which figures are available. [138118]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows the estimated number of young people aged 16-18 who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in each local authority area and region. These figures are drawn from the operational client management systems maintained by Connexions Services. Connexions services do not report figures at constituency level or on young people aged under 21 or under 25 years.

The figures include 16-18 year olds known to the Connexions; young people who attended independent schools or were at school outside England may be excluded. The age relates to those of calendar year age 16-18 on the date of measurement. The figures are for the average percentage NEET between November 2006 and January 2007.

This NEET measure is that used for setting and monitoring local authority NEET targets. The definition differs from that used to measure the national departmental PSA NEET target. Along with not covering the entire population, the Connexions NEET measure excludes those on gap years, or in custody. The PSA measure is for academic rather than calendar age 16-18.

Estimated number of 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment

	16-18 year olds NEET
South East	14,070
Bracknell Forest	180
Reading	400
Windsor and Maidenhead	140
Slough	240
West Berkshire	240
Wokingham	150
Kent	2,970
Medway	620
Buckinghamshire	430
Milton Keynes	490
Oxfordshire	900
Portsmouth	460
Southampton	640
Isle of Wight	260
Hampshire	2,140
Surrey	960
Brighton and Hove	710
East Sussex	1,170
West Sussex	1,050
London	16,160
Camden	380
Islington	550
Kensington and Chelsea	190
Lambeth	510
Southwark	610
Wandsworth	400
Westminster	260
Barking and Dagenham	730
Bexley	480
City of London	10
Greenwich	840
Hackney	670
Havering	590
Lewisham	500
Newham	950
Redbridge	430
Tower Hamlets	680
Barnet	510
Enfield	690
Haringey	630
Waltham Forest	540
Bromley	510
Croydon	830
Kingston	180
Merton	200
Richmond	140
Sutton	340
Brent	450
Ealing	500
Hammersmith and Fulham	280
Harrow	360
Hillingdon	710
Hounslow	600
East of England	12,300
Bedfordshire	920
Luton	620
Cambridgeshire	900
Peterborough	610
Essex	2,890
Thurrock	450
Southend	530
Hertfordshire	1,670
Norfolk	2,040
Suffolk	1,780
South West	9,640
Bournemouth	400
Dorset	770
Poole	290
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	1,060
Devon	1,300
Plymouth	710
Torbay	320
Gloucestershire	920

Estimated number of 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment

	16-18 year olds NEET
Somerset	760
Bath and North East Somerset	260
Bristol	950
North Somerset	250
South Gloucestershire	390
Swindon	580
Wiltshire	740
West Midlands	16,240
Birmingham	3,920
Solihull	690
Dudley	840
Sandwell	1,140
Walsall	870
Wolverhampton	960
Coventry	950
Warwickshire	1,150
Herefordshire	290
Worcestershire	920
Shropshire	450
Telford and Wrekin	530
Staffordshire	2,050
Stoke on Trent	1,430
East Midlands	9,150
Derby	710
Derbyshire	1,480
Leicester	1,200
Leicestershire	1,080
Lincolnshire	1,130
Rutland	10
Northamptonshire	1,420
Nottinghamshire	1,220
Nottingham	930
Yorks and The Humber	16,310
East Riding of Yorkshire	620
Kingston upon Hull	1,330
North East Lincolnshire	660
North Lincolnshire	570
Barnsley	900
Doncaster	1,180
Rotherham	1,130
Sheffield	1,680
Bradford	1,560
Calderdale	640
Kirklees	1,420
Leeds	2,170
Wakefield	1,230
York	420
North Yorkshire	880
North West	21,530
Cheshire	1,260
Warrington	450
Cumbria	950
Bolton	1,170
Bury	550
City of Manchester	1,760
Oldham	750
Rochdale	720

Estimated number of 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment

	16-18 year olds NEET
Salford	750
Stockport	810
Trafford	490
Tameside	720
Wigan	1,140
Halton	540
Knowsley	690
Liverpool	2,040
Sefton	870
St. Helens	680
Wirral	1,210
Blackburn with Darwen	600
Blackpool	620
Lancashire	2,820
North East	10,360
Durham	2,060
Northumberland	980
Darlington	330
Stockton-on-Tees	610
Middlesbrough	870
Hartlepool	400
Redcar and Cleveland	610
Sunderland	1,320
Gateshead	750
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,120
North Tyneside	700
South Tyneside	550

All figures are rounded and regional totals may not, therefore, be the sum of authorities in the region.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* 20-year-olds, *(b)* 21-year-olds, *(c)* 22-year-olds, *(d)* 23-year-olds and *(e)* 24-year-olds in each local education authority were not in employment, education or training in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [138362]

Bill Rammell: The information requested on *(a)* 20-year-olds, *(b)* 21-year-olds, *(c)* 22-year-olds, *(d)* 23-year-olds and *(e)* 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training, in each local authority area, is not available.

Data on young people not in education, employment or training collected by Connexions services is available only for young people aged 16 to 18.

Women's Prisons: Education

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many hours of education 10 to 17-year-old female offenders received on average per week in the last period for which figures are available; and who supervises the *(a)* delivery and *(b)* effectiveness of this education. [138165]

Phil Hope: Latest figures show that women offenders in young offender institutions receive an average of 31.36 hours of learning and skills per week. Separate data for women are not collected in secure training

centres and secure children's homes but the figures for all young offenders are that 99.4 per cent. of young offenders in secure training centres and 79.9 per cent. in secure children's homes receive 30 hours of education, training or employment activity a week.

(a) Education delivery is supervised by the head of learning and skills in young offender institutions and by the head of education in secure children's homes and secure training centres. In young offender institutions, the Learning and Skills Council funds and commissions provision through the Offenders Learning and Skills Service. Secure training centres and secure children's homes hold contracts with the Youth Justice Board which set out the requirements for education delivery.

(b) Ofsted inspect and regulate to raise standards in education and skills. Young offender institutions are inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and they invite Ofsted to inspect the education and skills provision. The Commission for Social Care Inspectorate inspects secure training centres and secure children's homes and invites Ofsted to inspect education. Inspection occurs through a mixture of unannounced and planned inspections. The responsibility for implementing the recommendations made in the inspection reports lies with the head of learning and skills in young offender institutions and the head of education in secure training centres and secure children's homes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Children

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what resources the Government have allocated to support the Year of Food and Farming initiative *(a)* in total and *(b)* in relation to facilitating the access of children to farms. [136759]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA has worked closely with the Department for Education and Skills, the Department of Health, and other stakeholders to support the Year of Food and Farming (YFF). We have provided financial support to develop the programme, including £130,000 of funding last financial year to support the start-up phase. In addition, DEFRA has lent a member of staff to the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) to work on the initiative. However, the YFF is an industry-led campaign, and the bulk of funding and sponsorship is coming from industry partners.

DEFRA is committed to developing the understanding young people have of where and how their food is produced. To that end, we provide approximately £1 million a year in payments to farmers who provide educational visits to their farms as part of their agri-environment scheme agreements. In addition in this financial year, DEFRA will provide £146,000 for the Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme (CEVAS), which provides training to farmers who provide educational access visits. This amounts to 50 per cent. of the scheme's funding.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* adjusted payments have been made, *(b)* cases are under review, *(c)* claimants have not received any payment and *(d)* claimants are awaiting their balance payment having already received a partial payment under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme. [136339]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: Of the 25,000 cases subject to review that my right hon. Friend reported in his statement of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 59WS, entitlements have been adjusted for 5,500 claimants and confirmed as correct for 2,500 claimants. The net number now under review is approximately 22,000.

There are 19 claimants who have not received any SPS 2005 payment and five claimants awaiting their balance payment after having received a partial payment. The majority of these 24 are probate cases.

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he expects to meet the payment deadline for the 2006 single payment scheme. [137486]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 29WS.

Coastal Areas: Access

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the effect on the rural economy of improving access to the coast; and if he will make a statement. [138536]

Barry Gardiner: We are currently considering Natural England's report on coastal access, and will shortly launch a public consultation document inviting views on ways of improving access. At the same time, we will also publish a partial regulatory impact assessment and information on the research study that we commissioned to examine the benefits and costs of relevant options. This research includes an assessment of the benefits to local economies.

Departments: Internet

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to have the web links on his ministerial blog updated; and how much he estimates this will cost. [138220]

Barry Gardiner: Links to websites or blogs are reviewed from time to time as part of the day to day administration of the Secretary of State's blog. The cost of updating links is included within the overall costs identified in my reply to James Paice on 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1070W.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for the Higher Level Stewardship scheme were *(a)* made and *(b)* granted (i) in the south west, (ii) in Torridge and west Devon and (iii) nationally in the scheme years (A) 2005-06 and (B) 2006-07. [136843]

Barry Gardiner: In 2005-06 there were 235 Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) applications received in the south-west. 180 were granted. In the same period there were 927 HLS applications received nationally. 773 were granted.

In 2006-07 there were 385 HLS applications received in the south-west. 122 were granted. In the same period there were 1724 HLS applications received nationally. 816 were granted.

Natural England are currently unable to provide this data at a parliamentary constituency level, but they are looking into the feasibility of enhancing their reporting systems with a view to doing so for the future.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* average value of award made under the Higher Level Stewardship scheme was (i) in the south-west, (ii) in Torridge and west Devon and (iii) nationally in the scheme years (A) 2005-06 and (B) 2006-07. [136844]

Barry Gardiner: The highest, lowest and average values of annual payments made under Higher Level Stewardship, nationally and in the south-west for the given years are set out in the following table.

Natural England are currently unable to provide these data at a parliamentary constituency level, but they are looking into the feasibility of enhancing their reporting systems with a view to doing so for the future.

	Highest	*Lowest*	£ *Average*
2005-06			
South-west	83,731.58	826.95	13,271.12
National	300,583.13	618.75	15,693.15
2006-07			
South-west	183,576.75	284.32	17,439.23
National	328,689.74	284.32	19,008.44

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is possible for applicants whose applications to the Higher Level Stewardship scheme have been refused to reapply in the following year. [136845]

Barry Gardiner: Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) applications which are rejected may be re-submitted by the applicant during the next quarterly application window or beyond.

Natural England encourages applicants to discuss their HLS proposals with them so that a realistic initial assessment can be made of the application before further effort is expended.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether all those who met the original criteria for payment from the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme are receiving the sums originally expected. [136891]

Barry Gardiner: Once accepted into Higher Level Stewardship, agreement holders receive a payment every six months for the duration of their agreement. The payment rates set out in an HLS agreement apply for the first five years of that agreement. If any changes are made to payments rates following a payment review, they will apply for the remaining period of the agreement.

Greyhounds

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce a tax on greyhound racing bookmakers to help pay for the welfare of greyhounds when they retire. [138476]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* The Government have no plans to introduce a tax on greyhound racing bookmakers to help pay for the welfare of greyhounds when they retire.

Milk: Prices

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with supermarkets on prices paid to dairy farmers. [136958]

Barry Gardiner: Price negotiations are a private commercial matter in which the Government cannot get involved, as long as competition rules are respected. However, we believe it is in the long-term interest of buyers to establish fair and sustainable arrangements for dealing with their suppliers.

We welcome the Competition Commission's announcement on 23 January2007 that, in taking forward its inquiry into the groceries market, it intends to look further at the impact of supermarket buyer power on primary producers in the dairy sectors.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what change there has been in farm gate milk prices in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [137640]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* DEFRA holds data on milk prices covering the United Kingdom (UK) as a whole, but not for counties within the UK.

The following table shows average monthly farm-gate prices for the UK calculated from separate monthly surveys on the value of milk. The surveys were conducted by DEFRA in England and Wales, the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department in Scotland, and the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland. The prices represent the average price per litre of milk received by producers each month, net of delivery charges. No deduction has been made for superlevy and no adjustment has been made for butterfat or protein content. The prices are shown both excluding and including any retrospective bonus payments made to date by milk purchasers.

UK average farm gate milk prices

Pence per litre

	Excluding bonus payments				*Including retrospective bonus payments*			
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[1]	*2006-07*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*[1]	*2005-06*[1]	*2006-07*[1]
April	16.84	17.70	17.59	17.34	16.85	17.72	17.59	17.36
May	15.99	16.94	17.11	16.82	16.00	16.95	17.12	16.83
June	16.51	17.28	17.30	16.83	16.55	17.30	17.31	16.84
July	18.21	18.27	18.06	17.18	18.22	18.28	18.06	17.19
August	18.95	18.50	18.64	17.60	18.96	18.51	18.65	17.61
September	19.24	19.48	19.46	18.45	19.26	19.49	19.47	18.47
October	19.59	19.51	19.71	18.82	19.60	19.53	19.71	18.84
November	19.82	19.49	19.76	19.00	19.83	19.50	19.77	19.01
December	19.15	18.93	19.26	18.71	19.16	18.94	19.27	18.72
January	18.76	18.53	18.65	18.17	18.77	18.54	18.66	18.18
February	18.68	18.31	18.34	18.40	18.70	18.34	18.35	18.41
March	18.47	18.32	18.11	—	18.48	18.33	18.12	—
Average	18.27	18.39	18.45	—	18.28	18.41	18.46	—

[1] Data are provisional.

Sources:

DEFRA, SEERAD, DARD NI

The latest prices, excluding bonus payments, for February 2007 shows a 0.6p per litre increase from February 2006. As bonus payments are often not paid until the end of the financial year, prices including bonus payments in 2006-07 are not directly comparable with those in previous years.

National Fruit Collection

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tenders it has received from third parties in relation to the contract to manage the National Fruit Collection; whether any of those parties' tenders would *(a)* break up and *(b)* relocate the collection from Brogdale; and if he will make a statement. [137424]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* The bids are currently being processed by DEFRA. Under competition rules it is not possible to comment on the content of any of the bids since to do so might prejudice the outcome of the process.

Rights of Way: Databases

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to establish a national dataset of *(a)* public rights of way and *(b)* tree preservation orders to assist cross-compliance enforcement. [137971]

Barry Gardiner: Local authorities have the primary role in providing information for both of these cross compliance requirements and take measures appropriate to their areas, making information available to, or receiving information from RPA if requested.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ascension Island

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects the Island Council of Ascension to meet next. [138657]

Mr. McCartney: The Island Council (Ascension) Ordinance was suspended by the Governor in April when insufficient nominations were received for the election of an Island Council. The suspension will last for a period of approximately 12 months. In the interim period, the Governor will proceed with such legislative and policy decisions as he needs to take for good governance in Ascension, taking appropriate advice as required.

Ascension Island: Economic Situation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of producing the 2005 Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Office's economic report on Ascension Island. [138658]

Mr. McCartney: The cost of producing the economic study by the Oxford Policy Management Group, which was completed in October 2005, was £35,766.98.

Ascension Island: Tourism

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many tourists visited Ascension Island in 2005-06. [138656]

Mr. McCartney: Entry to Ascension Island is regulated through an Entry Permit control system. With very few exceptions, every arrival needs an Entry Permit and this includes persons in transit, visitors of relatives or friends and 'tourists' as well as many of the people working and living on Ascension.

During 2005 and 2006 the number of persons transiting or categorised as tourists were:

	Holiday	*Transit*	*Total*
2005	1,034	1,575	2,609
2006	1,068	1,776	2,844

Burma: Nuclear Power

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Russian Ambassador and *(b)* the Ambassador of Burma on the export of Russian nuclear technology to Burma; and if she will make a statement. [138437]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the Russian Ambassador or the Burmese Ambassador about the export of Russian nuclear technology to Burma.

We are concerned by recent reports that Russia will be exporting nuclear technology to Burma and will be seeking clarification.

Any such export would need to be consistent with both parties' relevant international obligations, including those under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). The International Atomic Energy Agency would need to be able to verify fulfilment of Burma's obligations under the NPT, through the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement which Burma has signed with the Agency.

Cyprus

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will hold discussions with her Turkish counterpart and with the Turkish administration in Northern Cyprus on the full re-opening of Famagusta. [138316]

Mr. Hoon: Ministers and officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office hold regular discussions with their Turkish counterparts and Turkish Cypriot community leaders on a range of issues relating to the current situation in Cyprus. Ultimately, we believe that the ongoing division of the island can only be resolved through a comprehensive settlement brokered by the UN. We continue to urge both sides to show the political will and flexibility to bridge the gap between words and deeds, and to engage constructively with the UN's efforts to broker a comprehensive and durable settlement.

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* a Minister of her Department and *(b)* an official of the British high commission in Cyprus has visited the closed area of Famagusta. [138317]

Mr. Hoon: Our high commissioner in Nicosia and other officials have visited the closed area of Varosha. As far as we are aware, no Minister from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has visited Varosha.

Departments: Buildings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much her Department spent on staff offices in the UK in each of the last five years. [138173]

Mr. Hoon: The amounts spent on rents, rates, utilities, maintenance and refurbishment by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on staff offices in the UK in each financial year from 2001-02 to 2005-06 are listed as follows:

	£
2001-02	10,994,601
2002-03	13,149,036
2003-04	14,950,467
2004-05	15,966,480
2005-06	19,467,977

Departments: Correspondence

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what correspondence has been received by her Department from Mr. David Rose of Dublin. [138331]

Mr. McCartney: The Government have received substantial correspondence from Mr. David Rose over several years. To collate information on all correspondence received would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff funded by the public purse in her Department are classified as people without posts. [137702]

Mr. Hoon: There are 32 members of staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who are currently available for work but not deployed. All staff in this position have access to vacancy information and are deployed whenever possible in temporary or project work.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what value of annual private finance initiative payments by her Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137798]

Mr. Hoon: All payments made under private finance initiative (PFI) are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments were *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract, broken down by project in each of the last five years. [137799]

Mr. Hoon: The following is an analysis of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's payments against private finance initiative contracts in the years indicated:

£000

	Global Telecommunications	Berlin Embassy Service and interest costs	Berlin Embassy Capital repayments
2005-06	26,924	5,711	342
2004-05	27,634	7,234	370
2003-04	22,146	4,477	400
2002-03	20,674	3,843	434
2001-02	15,991	3,800	—

The Global telecommunications payments are for a contract with Global Crossing for the provision of a world-wide telecommunications network for a term of 10 years from 10 May 2000, which is treated as an operating lease.

The Berlin Embassy payments are for a contract with Arteos for the building, operation and maintenance of our Embassy in Berlin, the value of which has been capitalised in our balance sheet.

EC Action: Adoption

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the recognition of adoption orders in the Council of Europe. [138328]

Mr. McCartney: A number of member states of the Council of Europe are contracting states to the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. The UK ratified the Hague Convention in 2003. The Hague Convention applies only to intercountry adoptions and requires all contracting states to recognise adoptions that are made in accordance with the convention.

In respect of adoptions to which the Hague Convention does not apply, or where a Council of Europe member state is not a party to the Hague Convention, it is a matter for individual Council of Europe member states whether to recognise adoptions made outside their jurisdiction.

The Council of Europe 1967 European Convention on the Adoption of Children aims to harmonise the laws in contracting states to promote the welfare of children who are adopted. However, the convention does not provide for international recognition of adoptions made in the UK, or in any other country. It is a matter for each contracting party to the convention to decide whether to recognise adoptions made outside its jurisdiction. The UK denounced the 1967 convention in respect of the metropolitan territory and the Isle of Man in 2005 and remains a party only in respect of the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the recognition of British adoptions in other European Union countries. [138329]

Mr. McCartney: A number of member states of the EU are contracting states to the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. The UK ratified the Hague Convention in 2003. The Hague Convention applies only to intercountry adoptions and requires adoptions that are made in accordance with the convention to be recognised in all contracting states.

In respect of adoptions to which the Hague Convention does not apply, or where a EU member state is not a party to the Hague Convention, it is a matter for individual EU member states whether to recognise adoptions made outside their jurisdiction.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response the Government have made to the Council of Europe's ruling on case no. 5913/72, on recognition of adoptions. [138330]

Mr. McCartney: Case 5913/72 was brought against Ireland in 1972. The European Commission of Human Rights declared this case inadmissible on 18 December 1973. It is not for the Government to respond to cases relating to other Council of Europe member states.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Council of Europe about the recognition of British adoptions abroad. [138332]

Mr. McCartney: The Council of Europe 1967 European Convention on the Adoption of Children aims to harmonise the laws in contracting states to promote the welfare of children who are adopted. However, the Convention does not provide for international recognition of adoptions made in the UK, or in any other country. It is a matter for each contracting party to the Convention to decide whether to recognise adoptions made outside its jurisdiction. The UK denounced the 1967 Convention in respect of the metropolitan territory and the Isle of Man in 2005 and remains a party only in respect of the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey.

The Government have not therefore made any representations to the Council of Europe about the recognition of British adoptions abroad.

A number of member states of the Council of Europe are contracting states to the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. The UK ratified the Hague Convention in 2003. The Hague Convention applies only to inter-country adoptions and requires all contracting states to recognise adoptions that are made in accordance with the Convention.

In respect of adoptions to which the Hague Convention does not apply, or where a Council of Europe member state is not a party to the Hague Convention, it is a matter for individual Council of Europe member states whether to recognise adoptions made outside their jurisdiction.

EC Action: Communication

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's response to the European Commission's 2006 White Paper on a European Communications Policy. [138139]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's response to the Commission's 2006 White Paper on a European Communications Policy was sent to the Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee and the Chairman of the House of Lords Select Committee on the EU on 26 October 2006.

A copy will also be placed in the Library of the House and I will arrange for a copy to be sent to the hon. Member.

Embassies: Manpower

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff were employed in UK embassies abroad in each year since 1980. [137580]

Mr. Hoon: The following table sets out the number of staff employed at Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posts overseas on 1 April for each year since 1995. Figures are not available for the year 2000.

We do not hold records centrally of staff numbers in embassies and consulates overseas for years prior to 1995. To compile those data would incur disproportionate cost.

	Number of UK based staff	*Number of locally engaged staff*
2007	2,807	10,730
2006	2,798	10,063
2005	2,719	10,811
2004	2,673	9,466
2003	[1]2,017	9,062
2002	2,611	9,098
2001	2,600	8,795
2000	n/a	n/a
1999	2,595	n/a
1998	2,336	n/a
1997	2,350	n/a
1996	2,415	n/a
1995	2,472	n/a

[1] A new Management Information system was introduced in 2004. The figures for the transition period in 2003 are less reliable: they are likely to be an underestimate.

In addition there are a small number of staff who are employed locally and are not paid through the FCO payroll. These numbers are not held centrally and have not been included.

The overall increase in staffing at our posts overseas is due to a rise in the number of staff delivering consular and visa services to the public. These staff positions are funded out of revenue generated by the sale of passports and visas. Their number is therefore dependent on demand. This increase masks a significant reduction over the same period in the number of staff, funded from central budgets, performing other diplomatic functions.

Iraq

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1175W, on Iraq, how many requests for resettlement assistance have been received from Iraqi citizens working for the British army deployed in Southern Iraq; in which countries these requests have been received; and how many have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected. [136491]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

In the same manner as most other international resettlement countries the UK does not operate a bespoke resettlement programme through which an individual can apply directly to a UK overseas post. Therefore the statistics requested are not available.

In order to qualify for resettlement the established recognised international process is that an individual seeking protection must first register with the UNHCR who will initially decide whether it is appropriate to afford Mandate Refugee status. If they are given Mandate Refugee status the UNHCR will, in due course, decide which durable solution is appropriate. A very small minority of refugees only are referred by the UNHCR for resettlement and it is their decision as to which of the most vulnerable cases should take priority. Under these referral arrangements the UK currently accepts around 500 people for resettlement per year.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the United Kingdom's responsibilities for Iraqi refugees under international law since 2003. [136497]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The United Kingdom's responsibilities in international law for refugees, including Iraqi refugees can be found in the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol (together "the Convention").

Like all other refugees, Iraqi refugees are entitled to the protection of the Convention. Those who are in the United Kingdom (or at a UK port of entry) and who are assessed by the UK as falling within the terms of the Convention are entitled to receive protection in the UK.

Under the Convention, refugees are people who are outside the country of their nationality because of a well founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion and who, because of this fear, are unwilling or unable to avail themselves of the protection of their national authorities. Certain individuals can be excluded from protection where they commit certain serious acts or crimes.

Iraq: Security Guards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a list of private military companies operating in Iraq indicating in each case in which country they are registered. [138811]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep a record of private military and security companies (PMSCs) operating in Iraq as this is a matter for the Government of Iraq. We are aware of 12 UK mainland registered PMSCs operating in Iraq:

Aegis;

ArmorGroup;

Blue Hackle;
BritAm Defence;
Centurion;
CRG;
Erinys International;
Janusian;
GardaWorld;
Olive;
Pilgrims; and
Global Strategies Group.

The trade association, Private Security Company Association of Iraq (PSCAI) (www.pscai.org/fulllist2.html) lists further companies, but this list is not exhaustive, as membership of the PSCAI is not compulsory.

Kyrgyzstan: Politics and Government

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports she has received on the political situation in Kyrgyzstan; and if she will make a statement. [138547]

Mr. Hoon: Our non-resident ambassador to Kyrgyzstan (based in Almaty, Kazakhstan) and his staff regularly visit Kyrgyzstan and report on the political situation there. Since the Opposition led demonstrations in Bishkek in April, the political situation in Kyrgyzstan has been more stable. The Opposition failed to achieve its objective of ousting President Bakiev through demonstrations.

We welcome President Bakiev's initiative to set up a working group under Prime Minister Atambayev to look at further amendment of the constitution and will be monitoring the working group's discussions.

Mediterranean Region: International Cooperation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response she has made to French proposals to create a union of Mediterranean countries. [138008]

Mr. McCartney: We look forward to discussing this proposal with the French Government as and when details emerge.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in Pakistan. [138007]

Mr. McCartney: We are concerned about recent political tensions in Pakistan. In particular, we condemn the violence seen on the weekend of 12 May in Karachi and urge restraint on all parties. We will continue to watch the situation closely.

Russia: Estonia

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Russian Government on anti-Estonian demonstrations. [138142]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any representations to the Russian Government on anti-Estonian demonstrations following the relocation of the "Bronze Soldier" war memorial. The Government fully support the EU presidency and NATO statements, which expressed grave concern over the safety of the Estonian embassy and its staff in Russia, and urged Russia to fulfil its international obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. We see this as an internal matter for Estonia and we recognise the right of the Estonian Government to relocate memorials and war graves. We note this has been done with due sensitivity and respect.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports her Department has received of the recent alleged Russian cyber warfare attacks on Estonian Government sites; and if she will make a statement. [138143]

Mr. Hoon: The Government are aware of the recent cyber attacks on Estonian websites. Our embassy in Tallinn has been following the situation closely. We are deeply concerned by this development and we fully support the ongoing efforts by NATO to help the Estonian authorities investigate this matter further.

Russia: Pipelines

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the German Presidency on the Druzhba pipeline; what assessment she has made of the implications of the situation for EU-Russian relations; and if she will make a statement. [138522]

Mr. Hoon: EU Foreign Ministers considered various aspects of the relationship between the EU and Russia, including supplies through the Druzhba pipeline, at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) on 14 May as part of their preparations for EU/Russia Summit in Samara on 17-18 May.

Member states did not agree at the GAERC that talks on a successor to the current EU-Russia Partnership and Co-operation Agreement could begin at the Summit. We believe it would be better if talks started sooner rather than later. But the substance of the negotiations is far more important than when they begin.

Uzbekistan: Human Rights

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the human rights situation in Uzbekistan; and if she will make a statement. [138546]

Mr. Hoon: We remain seriously concerned about human rights in Uzbekistan and closely monitor the situation there, with our EU partners. On individual cases, we welcome the fact that journalist and human rights defender, Umida Niyazova, has been released, but urge the Uzbek Government to lift the conditions attached to her suspended sentence. We also welcome the fact that EU experts saw Saidajon Zainabiddinov in April, but we urge the Uzbek authorities to allow families access to imprisoned relatives eg the human rights defender, Mutabar Tojibayeva, and party leader, Sanjar Umarov. We hope that the Uzbek authorities will give a sympathetic hearing to Gulbahor Turayeva's appeal.

On Uzbekistan's co-operation with international organisations, we hope that the International Committee of the Red Cross will soon be able to resume visiting prisons. We regret that the Goethe Institute is now facing difficulties in Tashkent.

We welcome the start of the EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue. On 14 May, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council decided to keep measures against Uzbekistan under review on the basis of the criteria set out in previous Council conclusions, taking into account the actions of the Uzbek Government in the area of human rights, including the results of the human rights dialogue. The Council urged Uzbekistan to implement fully its international obligations relating to human rights, rule of law and fundamental freedoms.

HEALTH

Mental Health

13. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated for spending on mental health support services in Coventry in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [138348]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust has provided Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust with £46 million for 2007-08. This will provide mental health, learning disability and substance misuse services across Coventry and Warwickshire.

23. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of trends in the numbers of people diagnosed with mental illness in England. [138358]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department commissions regular surveys of psychiatric morbidity among different population groups. The survey carried out in 2000 among adults living in private households, which was a repeat of the first such survey in 1993, found no significant change in the overall rates for any neurotic or psychotic disorder. A further survey has been commissioned and is expected to report in 2008.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mentally ill patients have been accepted into hospitals under section 135 of the Mental Health Act 1983. [137018]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The numbers of place of safety detentions in England under section 135 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in all hospital facilities since April 1988 are shown in the table.

	Number
1988-89	83
1989-90	87
1990-91	237
1991-92	99
1992-93	128
1993-94	108
1994-95	145
1995-96	184
1996-97	204
1997-98	246
1998-99	239
1999-2000	237
2000-01	264
2001-02	318
2002-03	363
2003-04	337
2004-05	314
2005-06	382

Source:
DH and Information Centre published data KH15, K037 and KP 90.

Cancer Survival Rates

14. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on cancer survival rates. [138349]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over the last 30 years, cancer survival rates have doubled. Nearly 80 per cent. of women now survive breast cancer for at least five years and for colon cancer, 50 per cent. of patients will survive for at least five years compared to 26 per cent. in the 1970s.

Maternity Services

15. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the provision of maternity services accessed by those in Lewes. [138350]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Women in the Lewes constituency have, and will continue to have, personalised maternity care and a choice of high quality, safe and clinically viable settings when deciding where and how to have their baby.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the safety of maternity services in the UK compared with *(a)* other European and *(b)* non-European developed countries. [136503]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is not possible to make a direct comparison of the safety of maternity services in this country compared to other European and non-European countries because in the United Kingdom we use far more inclusive and detailed data collection systems which are not comparable. Many other countries are now starting to adopt the UK methodology so we will be able to make more meaningful comparisons in the future.

NHS: Finance

16. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on NHS financial performance in London in 2006-07. [138351]

Andy Burnham: At quarter 3 of 2006-07, London Strategic Health Authority economy reported a forecast deficit of £125.3 million. The national health services as a whole reported a small surplus, and we expect the final position to show further improvement.

We will publish the quarter 4 finance report in June.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS organisations failed to pay 95 per cent. of bills within contract terms, or 30 days where no contract terms were agreed, in the latest period for which figures are available. [131871]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is included in the following table.

	Number of organisations that failed to pay 95 per cent. of bills within contract terms or 30 days where no contract terms were agreed in 2005-06
Strategic health authorities	24
Primary care trusts	254
National health service trusts	194

The NHS paid over 15 million bills in the 2005-06 financial year, of which 79 per cent. were paid on time.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the NHS net financial deficit in 2005-06 was financed, broken down by *(a)* departmental and *(b)* non-departmental budget source of funds for meeting the deficit. [131951]

Andy Burnham: The 2005-06 NHS financial deficit was largely offset by underspends on centrally managed funds. The NHS Litigation Authority's declared reduction to provisions for clinical negligence was the largest component of the central underspend. A range of other central budgets also produced underspends.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1790-91W, on NHS: finance, why capital-to-revenue transfers took place in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [135817]

Andy Burnham: The Government have strict fiscal rules that differentiate between current expenditure, which over the economic cycle must be met from current income, and capital expenditure, which may be borrowed within the strict limits set for total public sector debt. Departmental budgets reflect these arrangements.

Transfers from the capital budget to the resource budget were made in 2004-05 and 2005-06 for two reasons. Firstly, capital grants allocated to fund social care programmes in the local authority sector were funded from the capital budget, yet accounted as revenue expenditure. These capital-to-revenue transfers were possible as the expenditure gave rise to fixed assets. Secondly, transfers took place when funding the Connecting for Health project, as the clarification of technical details led to an increased understanding of the appropriate split of expenditure on the project.

Blind and Partially Sighted People

17. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the provision of services for people who are blind or partially sighted. [138352]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for local health services and social services to assess the clinical and support needs of individuals who are blind or partially sighted. Decisions are made at a local level as to how best to meet the support needs of individuals based on those assessments.

Terrorist Attacks: NHS Staff Training

18. **Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff are trained to deal with chemical, biological or radiological attacks. [138353]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2007, 40,556 NHS staff have been trained to respond to major incidents, including CBRN incidents. This comprises of clinical and managerial NHS staff in hospital and community settings. Approximately, a further 2,500 ambulance personnel have also received CBRN training, including those working in London's hazardous area response team.

Child Alcohol Consumption

19. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the amount of alcohol consumed by children in the latest period for which figures are available. [138354]

Caroline Flint: The mean alcohol consumption of pupils who had drunk in the week prior to interview doubled from 5.3 units in 1990 to 11.4 units in 2000, and has fluctuated around this level since then.

Community Hospital Funding

20. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding she plans to allocate to community hospitals and services in London in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [138355]

Andy Burnham: Strategic health authorities are responsible for submitting prioritised bids for funding from the community hospitals and services programme. We are not yet able to say how much funding London will get from the programme as this will depend both on the nature of the bids that are submitted by London SHA, as well as the bids submitted by other SHAs. To date we have agreed to fund three schemes in the London SHA area totalling £10.64 million and there are no bids from London outstanding from previous waves.

NHS Nurses

22. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve the retention of nurses in the NHS. [138357]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The recent framework, 'Securing and retaining staff for health and social care—a partnership approach', outlines steps to improve retention generally in the NHS. The framework developed by NHS Employers requires close partnership working between employers (across health and social care), staff side and higher education institutions.

Acute Services

24. **Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the recent changes to acute services in England. [138359]

Andy Burnham: Any changes to acute services are a matter for the national health service locally. Services are changing for the benefit of patients and receiving more investment. The NHS is changing because medicines and treatments are constantly changing.

Mixed Sex Wards

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts in England use mixed sex wards. [138356]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally. Our guidance calls for single sex accommodation, not single sex wards. Good segregation can be achieved where men and women are cared for in single sex bays or rooms within the same ward.

Nursing

25. **Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent changes have been made in pay and conditions for nurses; and if she will make a statement. [138360]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The most recent change is that the Government have accepted the recommendation of the Nursing and Other Health Professions Pay Review Body for a 2.5 per cent. uplift in pay this year, subject to implementing the increase in two stages in April and November.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the conclusion of her Department's National Director for Emergency Access that an acute hospital with a catchment population of between 400,000 and 500,000 people would be better able to deliver consultant-led services, as stated in his e-mail of 27 March to Dr. Mark Signy of Worthing and Southlands Hospital NHS Trust. [138397]

Caroline Flint: There is increasing consensus among professional bodies that a critical size of hospital is required to ensure that specialist facilities are available to treat all patients with emergency needs safely. While the actual populations hospitals will serve in the future will differ slightly across the country, in general they will need to serve larger populations than is currently the case. Different clinical specialties may also have different demands in terms of the number of cases required to maintain clinical expertise.

In providing advice to any local area, I am confident that Sir George Alberti will have based his advice on ensuring and improving quality and safety of care for local people.

Ultimately, it is a matter for the local national health service to ensure the provision of urgent and emergency care services, including accident and emergency facilities, that are responsive to people's needs. We have made it clear to the NHS that it should consider a range of factors in putting together any case for change and produce a clear business case before consultation begins.

Alzheimer's Disease: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the Easington constituency were diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer's disease in each year since 2002. [137175]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

Asthma

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions for asthma sufferers there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* York and the Humber in the latest period for which figures are available. [137227]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of finished consultant episodes (FCE) for England and Yorkshire and the Humber, where the primary diagnosis was asthma, are given for the year 2005-06 in the following table.

	Number
FCE in England	66,055
FCE in North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic Health Authority	1,839

Note:
Finished consultant episodes are not headcounts, a patient may have more than one FCE within the year.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that people with asthma receive *(a)* a written personal asthma action plan and *(b)* regular asthma reviews. [137228]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The new general medical services contract was launched in February 2003. The contract includes a specific "quality indicator" for treatment and care of people with asthma; based on:

a register of patients diagnosed with, and prescribed drugs for, asthma,

a record of patients aged eight years and over where diagnosis confirmed by spirometry or peak flow measurement; and

a record of asthma review within past 15 months.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure that patients living with asthma are offered care plans and regular reviews.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations she has received on *(a)* making local asthma specialists available across England, *(b)* removing prescription charges for people with asthma and *(c)* involving asthma sufferers in the design of services so that their needs are met appropriately; and whether she plans to implement these policies. [137229]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have received representations from Asthma UK, and from individuals, seeking to remove prescription charges for those with asthma, to involve those living with this condition in the design of local services, and to make asthma specialists available locally.

We are currently undertaking a review of prescription charges and will be reporting the outcome before the summer recess. It is the responsibility of local health bodies to organise local services, and ensure the correct skill mix of health professionals, to meet the needs of those living with asthma.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of eligible women were seen within the 36-month standard for breast cancer screenings *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each breast screening unit in the latest period for which figures are available; [137396]

(2) what proportion of eligible women have been seen within the 36-month standard for breast cancer screenings in England in each year since 1997. [137398]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The proportion of eligible women seen within the 36-month standard for breast screening is not collected centrally. However, as a one-off exercise, national health service cancer screening programmes requested data from the NHS breast screening programme on the percentage of local screening units achieving the 36-month national standard between screens for quarter four 2005-06 (January to March 2006).

It found that in England, 68 per cent. of women were re-screened within the 36-month national standard and the average wait between screens was 36 months. The following table shows the average round length and the percentage of women re-screened within 36 months of their previous screening for each breast screening unit in England.

Breast screening unit	*Average round length (months)*	*Percentage of screenings within 36 months of previous screening*
North Yorkshire	34	93
Humberside	40	29
Pennine	36	67
Leeds Wakefield	37	38
Doncaster	33	94
Rotherham	35	84
Sheffield	35	71
Barnsley	35	99
Nottingham	34	90
North Nottinghamshire	35	91
Lincolnshire	40	33
South Derbyshire	36	80
North Derbyshire	36	49
Kettering	32	99
Northampton	33	99
Leicester	35	82
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	39	52
Chelmsford and Colchester	38	60
South Essex	34	73
Epping	19	99
West Suffolk	33	98
Norfolk and Norwich	37	61
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	36	73
Peterborough	35	98
King's Lynn	36	92
Cambridge and Huntingdon	37	47
East Suffolk	34	95
South East London GCA 1	35	70
South East London GCA 2	35	69
North London EBA	35	66
South West London HWA	38	44
Barking Havering FBH	40	28
West of London ECX	36	46
Central and East London FLO	35	78
Whipps Cross FWC	42	7
Newcastle	38	50
Gateshead	35	71
North Tees	36	68
Bolton	38	54
Chester	32	99
Crewe	35	97
East Lancashire	35	86
Greater Manchester	42	7
Liverpool	36	66
Macclesfield	41	21
North Cumbria	35	97
North Lancashire	45	11
Warrington	35	98
Wigan	37	56
Wirral	35	96
Windsor	32	99

Breast screening unit	Average round length (months)	Percentage of screenings within 36 months of previous screening
West Berkshire	35	66
Aylesbury	28	100
Milton Keynes	33	99
Wycombe	27	100
Oxford	37	74
North and Mid Hampshire	34	58
Isle of Wight	33	99
Southampton and Salisbury	36	64
Portsmouth	40	11
Worthing	40	56
Jarvis Centre, Guildford	33	92
Brighton	34	83
Kent Programme	41	30
Avon	44	18
Gloucestershire	35	84
Wiltshire	35	95
Dorset	35	98
Somerset	35	98
Cornwall	34	64
East Devon	45	8
South Devon	37	82
West Devon	40	26
City Hospital	35	97
Dudley and Wolverhampton	34	98
Hereford and Worcester	33	98
North Staffordshire	35	98
Shropshire	39	49
South Birmingham	34	98
South Staffordshire	38	71
Walsall and Sandwell	34	99
Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry	34	96

The NHS Cancer Plan, published in 2000, stated that we would extend invitations for breast screening to women aged 65 to 70 and introduce two-view mammography at all screening rounds. Thanks to the efforts of the staff in the screening programme, these targets have now been achieved in all local breast screening units. The expansion is already showing an effect, with nearly 12,000 cancers diagnosed by the programme in 2004-05, an increase of 40 per cent. on 2001 when the expansion began.

However, the changes together represent a 40 per cent. increase in the workload of the programme. We are aware that this has had an impact on some services maintaining the three-year interval for screening and we are taking steps to bring all screening intervals back to three years.

We take the issue of the 36-month standard between screens very seriously. That is why Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, wrote to the chief executives of all 10 strategic health authorities in England on 9 February 2007 highlighting the importance of maintaining the 36-month interval.

Consultants

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2006 to the hon. Member for North West Cambridgeshire, *Official Report*, column 671W, on consultants, for what reasons her Department does not collect information from the NHS on expenditure on external consultants. [133646]

Andy Burnham: The Department is committed to ensuring the value of information collected fully justifies the cost of collection, while also ensuring that information required to manage the service, monitor performance and measure activity within the national health service is available. As priorities change, statistical collections are reviewed and may be dropped or revised, or new collections may be implemented.

The Information Centre for health and social care is responsible for the regulation of all requests for information from the national health service by the Department, its associated arms length bodies, other public bodies and the private sector. The Information Centre's review of central returns process ensures that central collections of information are appropriate to their purpose, do not duplicate existing collections, and minimise the burden on the NHS in submitting the data.

Departments: Communication

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of the Permanent Secretary's communications plans, referred to on page 26 of her Department's 2007-08 Business Plan, published on 30 March. [135871]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Permanent Secretary's Communications Plan is currently in development.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in her Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137808]

Andy Burnham: A small number of national health service private finance initiative (PFI) schemes are regarded under accounting standards as on balance sheet. These are listed as follows; 100 per cent. of the capital value of these schemes and the corresponding liabilities are on the NHS's balance sheet.

On balance sheet PFIs

£000

NHS body	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Teignbridge Primary Care Trust	0	2,601	2,722	2,098	2,024
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	34,262	38,484	41,770	44,562	44,853
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	5,454	6,100	6,820	4,500	5,410
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	57,700	[1]—	46,820	35,306	34,893

On balance sheet PFIs

£000

NHS body	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Oxleas NHS Trust	8,444	15,306	16,267	17,612	17,153
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	0	115,245	115,264	114,909	143,930

[1] Not stated.

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules of the relevant NHS bodies 2001-02 to 2005-06

Doctors: Manpower

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how workforce planning for doctors in the National Health Service is undertaken; and if she will make a statement. [135691]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 736W.

Food: Hygiene

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what successful prosecutions for bio-security failures, which are not the subject of continuing legal proceedings, there have been since 2001. [136555]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 10 May 2007]*: Within its area of responsibility the Food Standards Agency has brought six successful prosecutions since 2001 in relation to failures of food waste handling at approved slaughterhouses and cutting plants for breaches of the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003, the Animal By-Product (Identification) Regulations 1995 and the Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995.

Health Professions: Training

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reviews related to Modernising Medical Careers are under way in her Department; and when each is due to report its findings. [135692]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A review into Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) recruitment and selection into specialty training made through the Medical Training and Application Service (MTAS) in 2007 is being led by Professor Neil Douglas, vice-chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The review will report when the work is completed—the timetable for which is under discussion.

An independent review chaired by Professor Sir John Tooke, Dean of the Peninsula Medical School, chair of the Council of Heads of Medical Schools and chair of the United Kingdom Health Education Advisory Committee, will examine the processes underlying MMC and make recommendations to Ministers to ensure that we can implement any necessary improvements for 2008 and beyond. The review will report on an interim basis in September 2007, but the final report date for the review has yet to be determined.

Hospitals: Mobile Phones

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice her Department has issued to hospitals on the use of mobile phones on hospital premises. [137478]

Andy Burnham: To date, the Department has issued two pieces of advice to the national health service on the use of mobile phones in health care premises in the form of good practice guidance. A first set of guidance was issued in August 2006, following a request by Ofcom. The set piece of guidance was issued in May 2007, following a recommendation by the Patient Power review group.

The guidance issued in May 2007 is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4138658

Copies have also been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average hospital waiting times were in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* England, broken down by speciality function in (i) 1992, (ii) 1997 and (iii) 2007 to date. [137207]

Andy Burnham: The figures are shown in the table.

Commissioner based waiting time information for Cornwall and England, by consultant specialty

Median waiting time (weeks)

	June 1993		*March 1997*		*March 2007*	
	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly district health authority	*England*	*Cornwall and Isles of Scilly district health authority*	*England*	*Cornwall and Isles of Scilly district health authority*	*England*
All specialties	16.8	15.9	12.9	13.2	7.0	6.2
General surgery	15.0	15.3	10.6	13.1	7.2	6.0
Urology	16.6	13.0	11.4	11.5	6.1	5.1
Trauma and orthopaedics	16.5	19.2	13.5	17.6	7.4	8.2
Ear, nose and throat	19.4	16.9	15.0	14.1	8.2	6.6
Ophthalmology	19.7	18.8	17.7	16.1	7.2	5.3
Oral surgery	14.9	18.0	12.3	13.6	7.4	7.0
Neurosurgery	n/a	15.0	n/a	14.7	8.9	6.9

Commissioner based waiting time information for Cornwall and England, by consultant specialty

Median waiting time (weeks)

	June 1993		*March 1997*		*March 2007*	
	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly district health authority	*England*	*Cornwall and Isles of Scilly district health authority*	*England*	*Cornwall and Isles of Scilly district health authority*	*England*
Plastic surgery	21.8	20.6	14.7	16.7	9.4	6.8
Cardiothoracic surgery	n/a	16.7	13.3	17.6	n/a	5.0
Gastroenterology	n/a	8.7	9.8	7.9	n/a	2.8
Cardiology	n/a	11.8	14.6	12.5	4.6	4.7
Dermatology	n/a	9.8	n/a	9.9	5.2	4.7
Gynaecology	15.7	12.2	13.0	10.9	7.2	5.9

Notes.
1. Data for Cornwall not available prior to June 1993. Figures for Cornwall shown for the organisation in existence at the time.
2. Specialties where the total number waiting is less than 100 are marked as n/a because this number is too small for a statistically meaningful median to be calculated. Only specialties recorded by Cornwall included in the table.

Source:
Department of Health, QF01

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will answer the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay dated 29 March, on professional indemnity insurance for independent midwives. [136425]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A reply was sent on 14 May 2007.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times she has visited health services in the East Riding of Yorkshire since taking up her post; and if she will make a statement. [117302]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has not visited health services in the East Riding of Yorkshire since taking up her post.

MRSA

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of MRSA were contracted in NHS facilities in the period *(a)* 1987 to 1997 and *(b)* 1997 to 2007; and if she will make a statement. [136300]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available.

National Media Evaluations

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 442W, on national media evaluations, if she will place in the Library copies of her Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month from July 2005 to December 2005 inclusive; and if she will publish the evaluations on her Department's website. [135819]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's national media evaluation coverage from July 2005 to December 2005 was published on the Department's website in August 2006. However, the Department recently moved to a new content management system to manage its website. The site holds 22,000 pages and 28,000 attachments, so much of the content was moved from the old system to the new one by an automatic process. Although this generally went well, there were some small technical difficulties which resulted in these media evaluation reports being inadvertently missed. This has been rectified and the reports have been placed in the Library and are also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/Classesofinformation/Communicationsresearch/index.htm

Additionally, the January to July 2006 media evaluation reports will shortly be published on the website and when this happens we will arrange for hard copies to be placed in the Library.

NHS: Statistics

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the definitions are of *(a)* general and personal medical services, *(b)* medical and dental workforce census and *(c)* non-medical workforce census as used in the NHS hospital and community staff and general workforce statistics. [137711]

Andy Burnham: The three workforce censuses are collected annually on 30 September for England. They cover:

General and personal medical services—records numbers and details of general practitioners (GPs) (contracted to the national health service) along with information on their practices, staff, patients and the services they provide. The figures exclude GP locums.

Medical and dental workforce census—qualified doctors and dentists in England (excluding GPs and high street dentists) employed by the NHS in hospital and community services. The census records details of staff (e.g. location, sex, age, ethnicity, country of primary medical qualification) and the area they work in (grade and specialty).

The data relate to staff holding permanent paid and/or honorary appointments that involve a degree of clinical work in the NHS hospital services and community health services. Numbers of staff holding either directly employed locum appointments or agency locum appointments are not collected in the census.

Non-medical workforce census—non-medical staff, i.e. excluding medical or dental doctors, employed by the NHS in hospital and community services.

The census records details of staff (e.g. location, age, sex, ethnicity) along with their occupation code which identifies:

each member of staff's main functional group (e.g. ambulance; nursing etc.);

the level of qualification (e.g. within nursing—midwifery; health visiting staff etc.); and

their area of work (e.g. acute, elderly and general; paediatric; school nursing).

Ritalin

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people taking methylphenidate drugs experienced adverse drug reactions in each year between 1997 and 2006. [132834]

Caroline Flint: Methylphenidate is a stimulant drug that is authorised in children over six years of age as part of a comprehensive treatment programme for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Treatment should be under the supervision of a specialist in childhood behavioural disorders. Its safety is closely monitored by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in conjunction with other European regulatory authorities.

Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the MHRA and Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme, the Yellow Card Scheme. The Yellow Card Scheme provides a system for early detection of emerging drug safety hazards and routine monitoring for all medicines in clinical use.

Between January 1997 and December 2006 a total of 488 reports of suspected ADRs have been received in association with methylphenidate treatment. The reactions that were most commonly reported were recognised side effects that are listed in the product information for prescribers and patients or reactions that may be part of the underlying condition. The following table shows the number of reports received in association with methylphenidate each year between 1997 and 2006.

Year received by the MHRA	*Number of reports listing methylphenidate as a suspect drug*
1997	22
1989	23
1999	28
2000	39
2001	50
2002	59
2003	102
2004	65
2005	90
2006	95

When interpreting spontaneous reporting data, such as the data received through the Yellow Card Scheme, there are a number of factors that need to be considered including that:

the reporting of a reaction does not necessarily mean that it is related to the drug; it may be difficult to tell the difference between something that has occurred naturally or as a result of the underlying disease rather than being caused by the medicine;

the number of reports received in association with a medicine should not be used as a basis for determining the incidence of adverse drug reactions; this is because we have limited information about how many people have taken the medicine without experiencing a reaction; and

the level of ADR reporting may fluctuate between given years due to a variety of reasons including media interest/publicity surrounding the medicine and variations in exposure to the medicine.

Smoking: Religious Buildings

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has carried out an assessment of the *(a)* prevalence and *(b)* risk to public health of smoking in churches and other places of worship; and if she will make a statement. [138528]

Caroline Flint: The evidence of the risk to health from exposure to second-hand smoke is well established, regardless of the type of premises where people might be exposed. For this reason, the smoke free provisions of the Health Act 2006 will prohibit smoking in virtually all enclosed public places and work places in England from 1 July 2007, including in places of worship. The English legislation is in line with that already in place in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Department has not carried out a specific assessment of the prevalence of smoking in churches.

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what elements she expects to be included in the new settlement in social care referred to by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Care Services in the web discussion for the Disability Rights Commission; what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her Ministers have had to discuss the new settlement, and with whom; whether a national consultation will take place on the new settlement; and when she expects the new settlement to be in place. [134693]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have provided significant investment in local services, including in the area of social care, since taking office. Total government grant has increased by 39 per cent. in real terms since 1997 and this has delivered real improvements, with the Commission for Social Care Inspection reporting that social care services for adults have improved for the fourth successive year. We are committed to ensuring that local authorities can continue to deliver effective local services. We are working with local government representatives to identify future pressures on local authorities, and the ways in which these can best be managed, as part of the Comprehensive spending review (CSR) 2007.

As is normal in the run up to any Government spending review, the Secretary of State and her Ministers hold regular internal meetings to plan the new settlement.

The Government believe it is important that the 2007 CSR is informed by wide public debate on the long-term challenges facing the United Kingdom. Across Government, the public are being engaged on a wide range of issues related to the CSR. In social care, the consultation 'Your Health, Your Care, Your Say' provided an opportunity to hear the views of the public of the priorities for their local health and social care services.

As the Chancellor announced in Budget 2007, the CSR settlement will be published this autumn, and will set public spending levels for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Social Workers: Medical Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether social workers are able to access patient records. [131757]

Caroline Flint: Initiatives such as the single assessment process (SAP) for older people, and the developing common assessment framework for adults, increasingly require health and social care services to share personal information about individuals receiving joined-up care, both as part of the commissioning process and to ensure that needs are addressed and that effort is not duplicated.

A patient's records may be disclosed to social workers working as part of a multidisciplinary care team where they need to have them to provide effective joined-up care, providing the patient has been informed that this may occur and has given express consent, or has not objected or expressed concern. Registered social workers are subject to a code of practice that requires them to respect a person's confidential information. Breaching the code can lead to their removal from the Social Care Register.

The practice expected of national health service organisations in facilitating these arrangements is set out in the document "Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice" published in November 2003. The code recognises that social workers are frequently involved in providing care for national health service patients and that sharing health information with them should be an essential part of providing joined-up services for patients.

Arrangements for sharing personal information with social care staff have included the development of local information sharing protocols. These are agreements between an individual NHS body and a council with social services responsibilities on how an individual's data may be shared between them. These agreements are based on well known data protection principles and make clear under what conditions or circumstances a person's data may be shared. All care employers are subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Where the NHS care records service is supporting SAP as an initial step in establishing joint services that contribute to the patient record, information sharing will be possible on the basis of implied consent subject to the requirements outlined above. Where SAP is supported by other systems, whether paper or electronic, explicit consent will normally be required and it will additionally be necessary to ensure that there are appropriate safeguards in place to protect patient confidentiality.

These arrangements are currently being supported by some 46 electronic SAP systems, and over 50 community patient record systems that have been delivered through the national programme for information technology, accessible by an estimated 114,000 authorised NHS users. These figures are continuing to grow rapidly.

Spinal Injuries

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many single treatment episodes of people with spinal injuries took place in each of the last 10 years. [136761]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of finished consultant episodes, where the patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis of spinal injury, for the last 10 years are given in the following table.

Finished consultant episodes—England

	Number
2005-06	21,308
2004-05	19,451
2003-04	18,079
2002-03	16,717
2001-02	14,965
2000-01	14,652
1999-2000	15,072
1998-99	14,808
1997-98	15,036
1996-97	14,877

These are counts of finished consultant episodes, not the number of patients treated.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with spinal injuries were admitted as accident and emergency patients in each of the last 10 years for which records are available. [136762]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of hospital admission episodes, where the patient had a primary or secondary spinal injury, and were admitted via accident and emergency (A&E), in the last 10 years is given in the following table.

Finished episodes in year—admissions via A&E

	Number
2005-06	11,861
2004-05	11,185
2003-04	10,460
2002-03	9,815
2001-02	8,951
2000-01	9,086
1999-2000	9,456
1998-99	9,297
1997-98	9,370
1996-97	9,386

Note: This is a count of episodes (not patients) where the patient was admitted to hospital via A&E. Patients who attended accident and emergency, but were not admitted to hospital, are not included.

St. Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Minister for Delivery and Reform in her Department next plans to visit St. Albans in an official capacity. [121753]

Andy Burnham: I have no current plans to visit St. Albans in an official capacity.

Streptococcus: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the danger to pregnant women posed by infection with group B streptococcus; what plans she has *(a)* to introduce a national screening programme for pregnant women and *(b)* to raise awareness of infection among (i) women and (ii) health care professionals; what assessment she has made of the indicative reliability of (A) a high vaginal swab and (B) the enrichment culture method test; and what plans she has to make the enrichment culture method test available to women free at the point of demand on the NHS. [138505]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The current position is that routine screening of group B streptococcus (GBS) should not be offered to all pregnant women. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guideline on antenatal care states that pregnant women should not be offered routine antenatal screening for GBS because evidence of its clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness remains uncertain.

Information for women is now in the Pregnancy Book and on NHS Direct Online. The Royal College of Gynaecologists and the charity Group B Strep Support (GBSS) also publish information for women. The UK National Screening Committee has commissioned an electronic learning resource for health care professionals from the National Electronic Library for Health to promote the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' guideline on "Prevention of Early Onset Neonatal Group B Streptococcal Disease".

A proposal for NICE to appraise the use of an enriched culture medium for the detection of GBS carriage in a subset of pregnant women with clinical risk factors has been submitted on behalf of the UK National Screening Committee's GBS Co-ordinating Group and is under consideration.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that any new proposals for charging arrangements relating to the treatment of children entering the UK and applying for asylum status are not implemented prior to debate in the House following the end of the consultation period currently underway. [136544]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* The consultation paper that we published on 1 March: "Planning Better Outcomes and Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children", outlined a number of changes to immigration and support arrangements for these young people. Some of these changes are already being progressed following consultation with the relevant stakeholders. An example is an improved and faster process for determining their asylum claims. The paper proposes further reforms, including plans to locate greater numbers of the young people outside the south-east of England. The consultation period ends on 31 May. We will consider carefully all responses to the consultation and the most appropriate way to set out our conclusions and plans for implementation.

Asylum: Somalia

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the risk faced by a member of the minority Reer Hamar clan in Somalia of persecution in that country; and what account is taken of that risk assessment in determining claims for asylum by members of the Reer Hamar clan in the United Kingdom. [138762]

Mr. Byrne: The situation in Somalia including the position of the Rer Hamar minority group is monitored closely from a wide range of recognised and publicly disclosable governmental, non governmental and human rights sources. Asylum decision makers carefully assess the protection needs of each asylum applicant in accordance with our international obligations and against the background of this country information. While it is accepted that some individuals of the Rer Hamar group will be able to demonstrate a need for international protection, it is not considered that each and every member of this group who applies for asylum will demonstrate a need for international protection.

Asylum: Sudan

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department takes to assess claims of Darfuri African ethnicity by those seeking asylum in the UK. [138618]

Mr. Byrne: All applications for asylum including those from Sudanese nationals of Darfuri origin are considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with our international obligations and relevant jurisprudence and taking into account the latest available country information.

Asylum: Suicide

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have committed suicide in the UK before being deported in the last five years. [134804]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not collated centrally.

British Nationality: Correspondence

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* items of correspondence and *(b)* other representations his Department and its agencies have received from (i) hon. and right hon. Members and Peers and (ii) others on British citizenship for those born to British mothers and foreign fathers before 1961. [138196]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency has received 5,145 letters from hon. and right hon. Members and peers on issues relating to nationality

issues since August 2004, the earliest date that records are available. No information is available on the specific subject matters raised by members.

No information is available on the volume of correspondence received from others or whether the correspondence related to individuals born before 1961.

Burglary: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bogus caller incidents were recorded in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [138408]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to recorded offences of distraction burglary. The Home Office has published statistics since 2003-04 and statistics for Suffolk are provided in the following table.

Recorded offences of distraction burglary in Suffolk

	Number of offences
2003-04	94
2004-05	106
2005-06	112

Crime: Business

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to tackle crime against business. [138006]

Mr. Coaker: Since 2004 the Home Office has provided more than £1 million of funding to the Action Against Business Crime Group (AABC) to set up 120 new business crime reduction partnerships in towns and cities across England and Wales. It has also, in partnership with stakeholders, produced a booklet to enable businesses to undertake a crime prevention survey of their premises. More than 125,000 copies of this booklet have so far been printed and distributed. A set of top tips postcards have also been produced giving more general advice to retailers and others on how to reduce the risk of being a victim of crime.

A new strand of the forthcoming Crime Reduction Strategy will include a renewed focus on working with business to see what more can be done to tackle crime problems.

Measures will be taken to raise the profile of business crime among Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) by highlighting the need to tackle this in the Public Service Agreement Delivery Plan. The Home Office will also seek to raise the profile of crime against businesses, to ensure that CDRPs consult and engage with the business community as part of their wider community consultation to identify local priorities.

Neighbourhood policing has been introduced across England and Wales to deal with low-level crime and antisocial behaviour and in some communities this will include, for example, Police Community Support Officers working in partnership with local businesses.

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which projects in his Department the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has assessed in the last 12 months. [137070]

Mr. Byrne: In the last 12 months, the PMDU has carried out joint reviews with the Home Office on a range of projects. These include:

Asset Recovery

Removal of Asylum Seekers and Other Immigration Offenders

Strengthening the New Borders and Immigration Agency

Antisocial Behaviour

Reducing Reoffending

Citizen Focused Policing

Respect

Neighbourhood Policing

Reducing Crime (PSA 1)

High Crime Causing Drug Users

National Offender Management

Non-Custodial Sentences and

The Department's Capability Review

Departments: Departmental Reorganisation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect he expects the forthcoming reorganisation of his Department to have on the allocation and organisation of Government buildings; and if he will make a statement. [134306]

Mr. Byrne: In accordance with normal practice for machinery of Government changes responsibility for those buildings wholly occupied by Home Office staff transferring to the Ministry of Justice will also be transferred. Arrangements for the small number of buildings that will be shared between the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice will be managed in accordance with normal practice for jointly occupied buildings that form part of the Government's civil estate.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Ministers in his Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135550]

Mr. Byrne: This Government publish an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134042]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office is committed to meeting the current cross-Government sustainable operations targets which includes paper recycling rates. It is also committed to meeting the mandatory minimum environmental procurement product standards which include paper standards.

During the last three years all paper used by the main Home Office for photocopying was from recycled sources. We hold no information on the percentage of recycled paper used in printed publications in 2004-05, but for 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively the figures were 6 per cent. and 25 per cent. Since late 2006 the Home Office has been using recycled paper for all of its printed publications.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink driving tests were carried out in each police authority in 2004. [138643]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of tests carried out is provided in the following table:

Screening breath tests, by police force area 2004[1], England and Wales

Police force area	*Total tests*
Avon and Somerset	27,300
Bedfordshire	7,800
Cambridgeshire	12,300
Cheshire	20,200
Cleveland	8,100
Cumbria	8,400
Derbyshire	31,000
Devon and Cornwall	10,700
Dorset	7,000
Durham	6,100
Essex	25,300
Gloucestershire	7,100
Greater Manchester	19,900
Hampshire	38,400
Hertfordshire	7,300
Humberside	5,600
Kent	32,000
Lancashire	10,200
Leicestershire	15,400
Lincolnshire	11,300
London, City of	700
Merseyside	5,000
Metropolitan Police	61,500
Norfolk	4,800
Northamptonshire	3,200
Northumbria	9,800
North Yorkshire	8,600
Nottinghamshire	8,200
South Yorkshire	6,500
Staffordshire	13,700
Suffolk	10,600
Surrey	9,500
Sussex	15,200
Thames Valley	15,400
Warwickshire	5,500
West Mercia	8,000
West Midlands	6,600
West Yorkshire	16,900
Wiltshire	7,400
Dyfed-Powys	6,700
Gwent	1,600
North Wales	24,200
South Wales	16,700
Total	577,600

[1] Following a comparison between the number of positive breath tests reported by each police force in 2004 and the number of court proceedings for drink/driving related offences, it became clear that there was under-reporting in a number of forces. As a result Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent and South Wales, court proceedings figures have been substituted for the positive breath test figures. Similar adjustments were also made to various forces data between 1998 and 2003.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies have been undertaken for the purpose of reducing the cost of processing in-country applications. [127403]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office is committed to controlling the underlying costs for processing in-country immigration and nationality applications. The Border and Immigration Agency has taken forward a number of operational reviews across the business following the recommendations of the Gershon Review and to secure continuous improvement in business processes. We intend to continue this programme to deliver better service for applicants and reduce operating costs. Overall, the Home Office has exceeded its target to achieve Value for Money improvements to the value of £1,970 million, of which £1,240 million is cashable by 2007-08. That includes £551 million savings made in the Border and Immigration Agency.

Forensic Science

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were received for the position of crime scene investigator in England and Wales in each of the last three years; and what proportion were successful. [138479]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics. The recruitment of police officers and police staff is an operational matter for individual chief constables.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what penalties are applicable to those convicted of illegally employing migrant labour. [135516]

Mr. Byrne: It is a criminal offence under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 to employ a person, aged 16 or over, who is subject to immigration control and who is not entitled to be in the UK or to undertake the employment in question. There is no upper limit to the level of fine that can be imposed on employers if convicted on indictment.

Immigration: Applications

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department plans to inform Mrs. Fouzia Ilyas (reference J1072668) of the outcome of her application for leave to remain in the United Kingdom. [134299]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 4 May 2007.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times *(a)* the police and *(b)* ambulances were called to (i) Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre, (ii) Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre, (iii) Dover Immigration Removal Centre, (iv) Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, (v) Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre, (vi) Haslar Immigration Removal Centre, (vii) Lindholme, (viii) Oakington, (ix) Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre and (x) Yarls Wood Immigration Removal Centre in the last year for which figures are available. [136972]

Mr. Byrne: Removal centres are not required to record the number of occasions when either the police or ambulances have been called. The police attend centres as part of the liaison in cooperating over security information and ambulances would be called to centres only in cases of emergency.

Members: Correspondence

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer from the Prime Minister of 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 836, on engagements, when he expects to address the case of Mr. Gary Douglas, a constituent of the hon. Member for Cheltenham, and respond to the hon. Member's letter of 11 April; and what the reason is for the time taken to do so. [135354]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 May 2007]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 25 April 2007. I will write separately in response to his letter of 11 April 2007.

Migrant Workers

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many responses were received to the consultation with stakeholders on the points-based system for migrant workers; how many were *(a)* in favour and *(b)* against the system; and if he will make a statement. [136659]

Mr. Byrne: My Department has received 517 written responses spread across national, regional and sector-specific stakeholders. No single question asked if respondents were *(a)* in favour or *(b)* against the system.

The full results can be found on the Border and Immigration Agency website:

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/pointsbasedsystemconsultati1.pdf

Offenders: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders who were deported in 2006 have subsequently been found to have re-entered the UK. [134640]

Mr. Byrne: The information could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Police

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 546W, on police, whether the position of Chief Constable has been filled in *(a)* Lancashire, *(b)* Durham and *(c)* North Yorkshire; when interviews will be held for posts in (i) Staffordshire and (ii) Sussex; and if he will make a statement. [138478]

Mr. McNulty: Stephen Finnigan was appointed Chief Constable of Lancashire on 23 March 2007, Jon Stoddart was appointed Chief Constable of Durham on 28 March 2007 and Grahame Maxwell was appointed Chief Constable of North Yorkshire on 16 May 2007. Interviews for the post of Chief Constable of Staffordshire will be held on 11 and 12 July 2007, and interviews for the post of Chief Constable of Sussex will be held on 25 July.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 483-84W, on prisoners: foreigners (1) how many of the non-EU foreign nationals as at *(a)* 30 June 2005, *(b)* 30 June 2006 and *(c)* 28 February 2007 have been sent back to their country of origin; [136545]

(2) what percentage of the prison population of non-EU foreign nationals referred to in the answer were sent back to their country of origin before the termination of their sentence. [136546]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The information requested is unavailable and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. On 19 February the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners.

A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Prosecutions

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought in each major city in the United Kingdom by the Serious Organised Crime Agency since its launch. [135690]

Mr. Coaker: SOCA is not itself a prosecuting body, but its work often results in prosecutions in the UK or overseas. Investigatory work to prepare for such prosecutions may be done directly by SOCA, or by one or more of SOCA's partners with SOCA support. Prosecutions in the UK are taken either by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) or the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO). The venue for the prosecution is not necessarily where the offences took place.

Figures are available for prosecutions taken in the UK during 2006-07 as a result of SOCA led investigations, which are set out in the following table. These do not include prosecutions taken overseas or in the UK as a result of work carried out by partners with SOCA input.

City	*Total*
Belfast	1
Birmingham	13
Bolton	2
Bournemouth	1
Bristol	8
Cardiff	2
Carlisle	1
Chelmsford	3
Derby	4
Dover	1
Dundee	2
Edinburgh	1
Essex	1
Glasgow	2
Guildford	3
Hove	5
Hull	1
Leeds	8
Leicester	9
Lewes	1
Liverpool	24
London	89
Maidstone	1
Manchester	13
Newcastle	14
Northampton	5
Nottingham	8
Oldham	6
Plymouth	1
Portsmouth	1
Reading	6
Sheffield	9
Shrewsbury	1
St. Albans	6
Stafford	3
Stranraer	1
Teesside	6
Winchester	20
Total	283

Vetting: Fees and Charges

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue was raised in fees for clearance checks on those intending to work with children by the Criminal Records Bureau in the last year for which figures are available; and how much was charged per clearance check. [138534]

Joan Ryan: During the financial year 2006-07 a total of £64,434,255 has been raised in fees for clearance checks on those who had indicated on the application forms that the position involved working with children. During this period, standard disclosures were charged at £31.00 per check and enhanced disclosures were charged at £36.00 per check. The CRB announced a fee freeze in January 2007 and the these costs are what are currently charged. Applications for voluntary positions are processed free of charge.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals he has received from Serco for changes in the detention regime for women at Yarl's Wood in relation to *(a)* locked room detention, *(b)* access to mobile telephones and *(c)* access to satellite television news. [138003]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* The contractor operating Yarl's Wood, Serco has not made any proposals, nor do they seek to make proposals to introduce changes in the detention regime for women at Yarl's Wood. The regime will continue as previously with no detainees being locked up at night. They will continue to have access to mobile telephones and access to satellite television news.

The re-tender of the contract required all bidders to meet a demanding operational specification which seeks to improve rather than reduce the service for detainees at Yarl's Wood.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136863]

Hilary Benn: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

International Assistance: Group of Eight

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made in following up the Gleneagles commitments of *(a)* the annual increase of gross national income (GNI) to overseas aid by G8 countries since the 2005 summit and *(b)* the proportion of GNI being allocated to debt relief by those countries. [138021]

Hilary Benn: At the 2005 Gleneagles summit, the G8 and other donors committed to increasing Official Development Assistance (ODA) by $50 billion a year by 2010, compared to 2004. The summit also agreed a proposal to cancel the outstanding debts of eligible heavily indebted poor countries.

Figures from 2006, the most recent year available, show that ODA from G8 countries was $75 billion, 0.26 per cent. of GNI. Debt relief from G8 countries as a proportion of GNI was 0.06 per cent. The following table shows total ODA, and ODA which was allocated as debt relief from G8 countries from the Gleneagles baseline year of 2004, to 2006.

ODA from G8 countries

$ billion, constant 2004 prices

	2004	*2005*	*2006*
Total ODA	57.6	79.3	72.3
Of which			
Debt relief	3.5	19.6	15.7

Source:
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2007.

The UK was the second largest bilateral donor in 2006, with ODA reaching $12.6 billion, 0.52 per cent. of GNI. We are on track to reach 0.7 per cent. of ODA/GNI by 2013, two years ahead of the EU schedule of 2015.

JUSTICE

Appeals: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will put in place a mechanism to record details about the nature of medical conditions of people who attend benefit appeal tribunals, in order to ensure that people with *(a)* chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis and *(b)* other illnesses are not discriminated against; and if she will make a statement. [138383]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Details of individual appellants' disabilities are not recorded when cases come before tribunals. However, the benefit type and the issue to be decided is recorded on the Tribunals Service processing system in all benefit cases.

In the case of disability appeals involving medical issues, a medically qualified panel member sits as a member of the tribunal and all panel members have equality and diversity training to enable them to deal with the full range of disability issues arising from benefit claims. Judicial office holders who are members of appeals tribunals are independent of the administration.

Data Protection: Intelligence Services

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when she expects the National Security Appeals Panel of the Information Tribunal to publish on its website the judgment of 28 July 2005; and what the reason is for the time taken to publish it. [135600]

Bridget Prentice: The Decision of the National Security Appeals Panel in the case of the Information Commissioner against the Secretary of State for the Home Department of the 28 July 2005, will not be appearing on the website. This is due to an Administrative Court order, obtained during the Judicial Review proceedings on 23 November 2006 that papers in the case, including a redacted version of the decision, would not be made public.

David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 620W, on David Kelly, if she will list *(a)* the interested persons and *(b)* the members of the press who were notified shortly beforehand; and what the time of notification was in each case. [138813]

Ms Harman: I would refer the hon. Member to my previous reply. We do not have the names of the interested persons or details of the times when notification was made.

Disorder Penalty Notices

James Brokenshire: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1027-28W, on Disorder Penalty Notices, when she expects the evaluation of the pilot undertaken in six police force areas for issuing penalty notices for disorder to 10 to 15 year olds to be completed; and if she will make a statement. [138202]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The evaluation of the pilots undertaken in six police areas for issuing penalty notices for disorder to 10 to 15-year-olds was completed in November 2006 and is currently going through the final quality assurance procedures prior to publication.

Elections

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what discussions her Department has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the use of electronic voting for the May 2007 elections to the Scottish Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [137688]

Bridget Prentice: My Department has had no discussions with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the use of electronic voting for the May 2007 elections to the Scottish Parliament.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of offender rehabilitation programmes at Moorland Open Prison in South Yorkshire, with particular reference to their effect on maintaining the West Coast Mainline railway; and if she will make a statement. [138250]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government have developed a range of offender programmes with a number of partners across the prison estate, including HMP Moorland, which are successfully tackling the root causes of re-offending and working to reduce social exclusion. Recently published figures show that we have reduced proven adult re-offending by 6.9 per cent. comparing 2004 to 1997.

"Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment: Next Steps" (December 2006) set out our plans to put in place an increased focus on training offenders and helping them get jobs. The initiative at HMP Moorland is part of that strategy.

The West Coast rail scheme is a high quality practical based programme, paying a decent wage and providing close to release prisoners at Moorland, through a 12 week training programme including full safety training, with the rail industry specific NVQ level 2 qualification enabling them to work in the rail industry on release. Job vacancies in this sector have given rise to sustainable employment opportunities for prisoners, thereby reducing the likelihood of re-offending.

Paedophilia: Convictions

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice who is responsible for the management of convicted paedophiles within the community. [138308]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The responsibility for assessing and managing convicted child sex offenders in the community in England and Wales is shared by the police, probation and prison services acting as the Responsible Authority within the statutory Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The Responsible Authority must work together with other agencies, such as local health, social, educational and housing services to produce and monitor a risk management plan. Generally speaking, the Probation Service would be the lead agency in carrying out the plan while the offender is subject to probation supervision and the Police would lead once any period of supervision has expired but the offender remains a registered sex offender.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice in what ways offender management and sentencing policy protects the public from convicted paedophiles being managed within the community. [138310]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government are committed to protecting the public and are determined to ensure there are robust arrangements for dealing with sex offenders in the community. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 created new sentences aimed specifically at sexual and violent offenders. These new sentences are designed to protect the public, and will ensure that dangerous sexual and violent offenders are subject to assessment by the parole board, and in serious cases not released from prison where their level of risk is deemed too high.

Through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)—statutory requirements for the police, probation and prison services to co-operate in managing potentially dangerous offenders—the way in which child sex offenders are managed in the UK has been revolutionised. It is our intention to look carefully at how this can be built on and strengthened.

Community Notification is an important tool which already exists within the current MAPPA system through the police and naturally we want to explore whether the lessons from other countries might have value in the UK.

The phased introduction of the NOMS Offender Management Model is improving the way in which sentences are organised and delivered across the probation and prison services, but paedophiles are already subject to robust arrangements.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which organisations have statutory duties in the monitoring of convicted paedophiles in the community. [138314]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is a statutory requirement upon the police, probation and prison services, acting as the Responsible Authority in each of the 42 areas in England and Wales, to establish and monitor multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) in order to manage the risk posed by sexual and violent offenders. The Act also placed a range of other local agencies, such as health, educational, social and housing services, under a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authority. The agencies work together to identify relevant offenders, share information, conduct more comprehensive risk assessments and therefore draw up better risk management plans. The plans are monitored via multi-agency meetings for as long as is required.

Generally, the police or the probation service will have lead responsibility in monitoring the offender, with assistance from other agencies, although youth offending teams and supervising psychiatrists and social supervisors will take or share a lead monitoring role in some cases.

Paedophilia: Prisoners Release

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what guidelines apply to convicted paedophiles after release into the area where they committed an offence. [138311]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All convicted child sex offenders are liable to management under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Most will be

subject to notification requirements (sex offender registration) on release from prison, and those who were sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment or more will generally be subject to licence conditions, breach of which can lead to recall to prison. In addition, some may be subject to Sexual Offence Prevention Orders (SOPOs), which can be imposed where a court deems that the offender poses a risk of serious sexual harm. As with licence conditions, SOPOs can impose restrictions on behaviour, such as staying away from the victim or from schools. Breach of a SOPO is a criminal offence and would make the offender liable to a maximum of five years' imprisonment.

The twin aims of the MAPPA are to protect the public and to prevent re-victimisation. While offenders will generally be released to their home area, where the offence may have been committed, consideration will be given to an exclusion zone, in the light of specific risks to the victim and also to the impact the return might have locally.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what offender management guidelines are provided to local authorities on housing homeless convicted paedophiles. [138302]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Local housing authorities are under a statutory duty to co-operate with Responsible Authority in the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The Responsible Authority has to establish arrangements for the identification, assessment and management of sexual and violent offenders. The aim is to facilitate an exchange of information between the agencies and to ensure that the local housing authority is on hand to give advice about accommodation and the procedures by which it is allocated, and the suitability of particular housing stock both generally and in relation to particular cases.

Paedophilia: Re-offenders

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the re-offending rate is for convicted paedophiles. [138309]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The re-offending rates for men who sexually abuse children are not known, but we do have information on re-conviction rates for this group of offenders.

The most recent figures we have are for 2004.

Out of the adult offenders who were convicted of a sexual offence against a child, and were released from custody or who started a community penalty in the first quarter of 2004, 12.3 per cent. were reconvicted of a new offence of any kind.

These rates of re-conviction were over a period of two years.

For all adult male offenders convicted of a sexual offence (that is including those who offended against a child and those who offended against adults) and who were released from custody in 2001, 3 per cent. were reconvicted for a further sexual offence within two years.

Paedophilia: Sentencing

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when the Sentencing Guidelines Council and the Sentencing Advisory Panel last reviewed sentencing guidelines for convicted paedophiles. [138307]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following wide consultation, the Sentencing Guidelines Council published definitive guidelines on the Sexual Offences Act 2003 on 30 April 2007.

The guidelines cover a range of sexual offences, including offences involving children, and take into account the impact of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

The full guidelines can be found on the Sentencing Guidelines Council Website at:

http://www.sentencing-guidelines.gov.uk/docs/82083-CO1-SCG_final.pdf

The section which relates to sexual offences involving children can be found in Part 3.

Prison Service: Working Hours

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what mechanisms exist to monitor compliance with *(a)* health and safety regulations and *(b)* European Working Time Directive requirements for operational prison governors; and if she will make a statement. [137300]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An audit of the health and safety performance of each prison is carried out every two years by health and safety advisers. The audit focuses on the procedures in place for implementing the requirements of health and safety legislation. A report is prepared for governors which include any deficiencies identified during the audit, the actions required to ensure compliance with legislation and Prison Service guidance and timescales for implementation. Additionally, governing governors are required to regularly monitor health and safety performance in their area of control.

While prison governors are contracted to be "all hours worked", there is an expectation that they should work a notional 42-hour week. Obviously due to operational requirements they may be called upon to exceed this, but line managers are responsible for ensuring that staff do not regularly exceed working hours set out in the European working time directive.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many non-UK citizens convicted of custodial offences are eligible to be repatriated to their home countries. [138108]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At the end of March 2007, the latest period for which data are available, 2,919 prisoners serving immediate custodial sentences gave their nationality as that of one of those countries with which the United Kingdom has a prisoner transfer arrangement. Of these around 2,000 prisoners appear to meet the basic criteria for repatriation. That is; they are a national of a country with which we have a

prisoner transfer arrangement, their sentence is final and enforceable, and they have more than the relevant period left to serve as specified in the applicable international arrangement.

Under our existing repatriation arrangements repatriation is a voluntary process and requires the consent of both states involved, as well as that of the prisoner concerned, before repatriation can take place.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

The figures given relate to England and Wales only.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 808W, on prisoners: repatriation, when discussions have taken place with the representatives of which countries on the repatriation of their nationals from British prisons without the requirement for prisoners' consent. [138788]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In my answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 808W, I indicated that work is being undertaken to identify those countries with which we already have bilateral prisoner transfer arrangements who may be willing to renegotiate those arrangements to remove the requirement for prisoners to consent to transfer. This is in addition to the EU negotiations and those with the Council of Europe, which concern multi-party agreements. The work is being taken forward in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Direct discussions with the governments concerned have not yet taken place.

Prisons: Video Games

David Davis: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much the Prison Service spent on games for Sony playstations in each of the last three financial years for which figures are available. [137021]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service does not keep records of the amount spent on games for Sony Playstations.

Probation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what percentage of eligible prisoners were interviewed and assessed by the Probation Service prior to release in the last 12 months. [138188]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally and would incur a disproportionate cost.

Supreme Court: Buildings

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations her Department received from private contractors on *(a)* the refurbishment of Middlesex Guildhall and *(b)* the construction of a new building to house the new Supreme Court. [134349]

Vera Baird: Five developers were involved in the bid process to carry out the renovation of Middlesex Guildhall. In 2004, Land Securities approached the Department with two options for a new build; Fetter Lane (near the Royal Courts of Justice) and Buckingham Gate. Fetter Lane was deemed too large for use as the Supreme Court and was taken up by HMCS. After detailed analysis, Buckingham Gate was ruled out because it offered a much less prestigious location at a higher cost.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls were held in young offender institutions in each of the last 10 years. [138192]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of 15 to 17-year-olds within the prison population in England and Wales as at 30 June in each year between 1995 and 2006, can be found in the following table.

No one under the age of 15 is held in Prison Service establishments.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Population of under 18s held in prison establishments by type of custody and sex[1], England and Wales 30 June

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Males												
Aged 15												
Total	181	217	254	244	218	283	300	302	227	271	245	289
Untried	34	35	46	48	29	35	41	33	29	37	38	32
Convicted unsentenced	20	39	28	38	15	16	7	26	8	15	14	27
Immediate custodial sentence	127	143	180	158	174	232	252	243	190	220	191	230
Non-criminal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aged 16												
Total	453	582	643	675	639	664	704	753	661	639	685	726
Untried	104	133	114	100	106	82	69	99	81	74	78	98
Convicted unsentenced	51	64	57	83	49	32	29	33	40	43	43	36

Population of under 18s held in prison establishments by type of custody and sex[1], England and Wales 30 June

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Immediate custodial sentence	298	385	472	492	484	550	606	599	540	522	563	592
Non-criminal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Aged 17												
Total	992	1,225	1,511	1,468	1,479	1,398	1,340	1,434	1,288	1,288	1,326	1,423
Untried	260	304	297	286	285	242	182	183	206	211	210	250
Convicted unsentenced	200	187	246	205	209	147	105	110	88	111	88	130
Immediate custodial sentence	532	734	968	977	985	1,009	1,053	1,139	993	965	1,026	1,043
Non-criminal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	—
In default of payment of a fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females												
Aged 15												
Total	1	7	9	7	7	3	7	9	—	—	—	—
Untried	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convicted unsentenced	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immediate custodial sentence	1	7	9	7	7	3	7	9	—	—	—	—
Non-criminal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aged 16												
Total	13	17	12	20	22	28	12	27	6	2	1	—
Untried	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convicted unsentenced	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Immediate Custodial Sentence	12	17	12	20	22	28	12	27	6	1	1	—
Non-criminal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aged 17												
Total	35	45	50	52	57	58	71	81	71	74	71	69
Untried	11	8	11	8	13	13	13	5	12	10	11	14
Convicted unsentenced	6	4	7	9	6	7	12	7	8	84	—	5
Immediate Custodial Sentence	18	33	32	35	38	38	46	68	51	57	54	50
Non-criminal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
In default of payment of a fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Taken from table 8.20 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005 to be found at:
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section8.xls

Data Sources and Quality:
These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figures may not be accurate to that level. See Technical appendix of report for fuller information.

Young Offenders

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the Government policy is on keeping young people held in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* secure accommodation close to their family home. [138195]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Responsibility for placing young people under 18 within the secure estate lies principally with the Youth Justice Board. Children under 15 may be placed in a secure children's home or a secure training centre. Young people under 18 may also be accommodated in those establishments, but most are placed in a young offender institution. In deciding which sort of placement is appropriate, the board has regard to the young person's age and sex and to his or her individual needs. Having taken account of those factors, the board's policy is to place the young person as close to home as possible. But the chief consideration is that the establishment should be of a type that is able to meet the young person's particular needs.

Young Offenders: Secure Accommodation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many secure accommodation places there are for juveniles. [138191]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are currently 3,539 places for young people in the secure estate for children and young people. 3,003 are in young offender institutions, 301 in secure training centres and 235 in secure children's homes. These figures have been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

The actual daily availability will vary. Places may be out of commission for various reasons, for example because of damage.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls were held in juvenile secure accommodation in each of the last 10 years. [138193]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures in the following table have been provided by the Youth Justice Board, which has been responsible for purchasing and commissioning places in the secure estate for children and young people since 2000. The table shows the total number of boys and girls under 18 in custody at the end of June in each year from 2000 onwards and covers the three sectors of the estate (young offender's institutions, secure training centre and secure children's homes). Complete data for earlier years are not held centrally.

	Male	*Female*
2000	2,677	148
2001	2,666	155
2002	2,849	222
2003	2,586	198
2004	2,561	187
2005	2,610	215
2006	2,707	211

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls are being held in juvenile secure accommodation. [138194]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On 27 April 2007, 2,681 boys and 197 girls under 18 were held in the secure estate for children and young people. 2,326 boys and 66 girls were in young offender institutions; 162 boys and 94 girls in secure training centres; and 193 boys and 37 girls in secure children's homes. These figures have been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Office held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136852]

Mr. Straw: Our records do not cover the entire period requested, but from the information available there were no official meetings held with any holder of this office in that capacity. My right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) has been a personal friend of Alan Donnelly, executive chairman of Sovereign Strategy, for many years, and met Mr. Donnelly on a number of occasions during the period he was Leader, as he has, I understand, done so before and since. These were private meetings and not in connection with his responsibilities as Leader.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Dairy Products: Milk

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with supermarkets regarding the price of milk and its effect on dairy farmers. [128837]

Mr. McCartney: Ministers and senior officials meet with all businesses, including supermarkets, from time to time to discuss a range of issues.

Milk pricing is primarily an issue for DEFRA and for OFT. However, the Competition Commission in the course of its investigation into the UK grocery market highlighted in its emerging thinking document published in January

That the number of dairy and pig meat farmers has declined in recent years indicating significant difficulties in those sectors. Average incomes are now rising but supermarkets are retaining an increasing share of the retail price for milk (the situation is less clear for pig meat). We will be looking at this further as well as other primary produce sectors.

The CC has not yet reached any conclusions but hopes to publish its final report in February 2008.

Debts: Telephone Services

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many calls received by the National Debtline in each quarter of the last two years *(a)* received an engaged tone, *(b)* were answered by an adviser, *(c)* were abandoned by the caller and (d) were abandoned. [138386]

Mr. McCartney: The National Debtline is run by the Money Advice Trust. It does crucial work in helping the over-indebted with their problems.

The DTI have given National Debtline a grant of £1 million this year (as have the DCA) to help them continue to expand their assistance programme. We clearly value their work but we do not run National Debtline and questions about calls statistics are best posed to the Money Advice Trust direct. They are happy to assist and have contacted your office on this.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136850]

Jim Fitzpatrick: According to our records, Ministers have not held meetings with Sovereign Strategy. DTI officials separately held one meeting with the company in 2004.

Employment: Older Workers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is considering to prolong the working lives of employed elderly people. [138009]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The age discrimination legislation that we brought into force on 1 October 2006 was a significant step in helping older people in the employment market. The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations establish basic requirements so that people can no longer be denied jobs because of prejudice; so that harassment can be tackled promptly and effectively; and so that people have an equal chance of training and promotion whatever their age. Furthermore, we recognise that many older workers would remain in work past their normal retirement age if given that opportunity. For the first time employees have a statutory right to request this opportunity under new procedures in the legislation. We believe that this will precipitate a culture change in which retirement decisions are discussed in the light of the needs of the individual and of the business.

Russia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many ministerial visits to Russia his Department undertook in each year between 2002 and 2006; and for what purposes. [136977]

Mr. McCartney: There were three ministerial visits to Russia, in June 2004, February 2006 and March 2006, the purposes of which were to take forward discussion with the Russian Government about our bilateral trade, investment and energy relationship.

In June 2004 my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, West (Ms Hewitt) visited Moscow for discussions about trade, investment and energy issues. In February 2006 my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, South (Ian Pearson) paid a trade-related visit to Russia and Ukraine and in March 2006 my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson) visited Moscow for a G8 Energy ministerial meeting. It is also worth noting that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Darling) visited Moscow in February 2007.

Seals: Animal Products

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Government expect to achieve their aim of an EU-wide ban on the use of seal products. [138074]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* Only the European Commission can make proposals for an EU-wide import ban.

European Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas has commissioned a study on the animal welfare aspects including humaneness of seal culling. The study is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Once this study has been completed, the Commission will decide whether to propose further legislative measures.

Unfair Dismissal: Tribunals

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many and what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who appealed to an employment tribunal for unfair dismissal in the last 12 months have had their claim upheld. [137882]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Between April 2006 and March 2007, 44,496 unfair dismissal cases were received by employment tribunals. During this same period, 4,245 claims were upheld.

The proportion of men and women who made claims to an employment tribunal for unfair dismissal in the last 12 months is not readily available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

TRANSPORT

A19: Road Traffic

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to reduce the level of traffic congestion on the A19 road, with particular reference to the stretch between Wynyard and Portrack. [138268]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency recently installed CCTV cameras on Tees Viaduct to allow incident related congestion to be identified and responded to more quickly. The agency is also developing a more comprehensive tactical diversion route strategy and progressing designs for the installation of electronic variable message signs at key junctions on the A19. This will reduce the impact of incident related congestion and improve driver information.

The Highways Agency is working with Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit on an area action plan for the Tees Valley, looking at what transport provision will be needed in the future to accommodate travel demand arising from planned development. The study will include the stretch of the A19 between Wynyard and Portrack, and is due to report towards the end of the summer.

The agency is also working with Tees Valley local authorities on other studies looking at congestion points at junctions on the A19 through Tees Valley.

Aviation: Compensation

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which EU countries are not complying with the European Directive on compensation for air passengers. [138206]

Gillian Merron: The European Commission's recent report into the operation of the regulation suggests that some member states do not yet have the power to impose penalties on airlines. The document is available on the internet at the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air_portal/passenger_rights/information_en.htm

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

I can confirm that the UK is complying with Regulation (EC) 261/2004 which provides compensation and assistance to air passengers in the event of denied boarding, cancellation and long delay to flights.

The Commission commenced infraction proceedings against the UK in December 2006 as it believed the UK's complaints handling policy favoured UK residents over non-UK residents. This has now been resolved so that all complaints are handled in the same way while maintaining the service provided to UK residents. The Government believe that the infraction proceedings will not be taken forward.

Bus Services: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures his Department is implementing to protect the drivers and passengers of buses from individuals throwing missiles at buses. [137457]

Gillian Merron: The Government work with transport operators and other parties to tackle the transport dimensions of crime and antisocial behaviour.

The Department brings together representatives of bus operators, unions, transport and local authorities, the police, passengers and Government Departments under the Safer Travel on Buses and Coaches Panel (STOP). The Panel looks at ways to combat assaults, antisocial behaviour and vandalism on vehicles, at stops and stations and property. We have produced guidance including 'Protecting Bus and Coach Crews' available free from DfT publications, 0870 1226 236.

Practical advice on tackling the issue of stone throwing has been published on the Government's Crime Reduction website at:

http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/criminaldamage/cdfaqs11.htm.

Highway Code: Cycling

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last met cycling groups to discuss the proposed changes to the Highway Code. [137924]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* I met my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, South and Finsbury (Emily Thornberry), chair of the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group, on 7 September 2006, to discuss the concerns of some cyclists about the proposed changes to the Highway Code, following the public consultation. In all, 43 changes were made to the original draft in response to representations made by cyclists and cycling groups.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions have taken place with representatives of cycling organisations on the new version of the Highway Code; and if he will make a statement. [138293]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I have given today to the hon. Member for Dundee, West (UIN 137924).

Milton Keynes Station: Parking

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to increase car parking space at Milton Keynes station. [138609]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail, in conjunction with Milton Keynes council and other key stakeholders, is working on proposals to increase car parking capacity. The Department is monitoring progress to ensure delivery meets the anticipated increases in demand following the improved timetables to be introduced on the West Coast Main Line in early 2009.

Motorway Service Areas

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made with the piloting of French-style rest areas next to motorways. [137908]

Dr. Ladyman: Officials are currently undertaking a review of the policy on roadside facilities. As part of that review, evidence has been sought from the public and interested parties on relevant issues, including motorway rest areas. The evidence received is being considered and I hope to be able to publish a new policy in the autumn, following further public consultation.

Public Transport

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to increase the role of social enterprise organisations in the provision of public transport. [138266]

Gillian Merron: The Department of Transport launched a report in November 2006 which looks at the role of social enterprise in community transport. We are working with the Plunkett Foundation and the Community Transport Association on taking the recommendations forward.

Social enterprise organisations which do not operate with a view to profit may benefit from the proposals set out in "Putting Passengers First" concerning vehicles operated under permits under section 19 or 22 of the Transport Act 1985. Essentially these changes would allow more flexibility as to vehicle size and would allow drivers of buses on section 22 services to be paid. Putting Passengers First may be found on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk).

Railway Stations: Access

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will set benchmarks or other criteria to be achieved by Network Rail and train operators in ensuring access to railway stations for *(a)* disabled people, *(b)* people who are semi-ambulant and *(c)* mothers with young children; and if he will make a statement. [138431]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* When undertaking refurbishment or installing new equipment at stations Network Rail and train operating companies are required to meet the technical standards in the Train and Station Service for Disabled Passengers: A Code of Practice (SRA, 2002).

In addition, new technical standards for stations are due to come into force shortly under the EU-wide Technical Standards for Interoperability; Persons of Reduced Mobility. This will apply to those with luggage, parents with prams and other groups, as well as disabled people.

Operators also have a duty under Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to make reasonable adjustments to their services to ensure they are not impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled people to access.

Where a train operator or Network Rail cannot meet the required standards in the code of practice, they must apply to the Department for a dispensation.

As a result of the incoming European Technical Standards for Interoperability; Persons of Reduced Mobility, the Department are currently developing an updated code of practice to bring UK standards into line with the TSI.

The Railways for All strategy was launched on 26 March 2006. It sets out what the rail industry is doing to improve access to Britain's railways, particularly for people with disabilities, in line with the standards contained in the code.

Central to the strategy is the Access for All programme which provides £370 million of ring-fenced funding to improve accessibility at railway stations up to 2015.

In addition, around £7 million a year is available from the Access for All Small Schemes fund for train operators and other third parties to bid for on a match fund basis.

Train and station operators are required to have in place a Disabled Person's Protection Policy (DPPP) which sets out the organisation's policies and approach for helping disabled people and a summary of the accessible facilities at the stations they operate.

Railways: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average travel time was by rail between *(a)* Portsmouth and Waterloo via Eastleigh and *(b)* Southampton and Waterloo in each year since 1997. [138783]

Mr. Tom Harris: The average journey time comparisons for 1997 to 2007 are listed as follows.

Portsmouth-London Waterloo via Eastleigh

	Time
1997	2h 17
1998	2h 17
1999	2h 23
2000	2h 23
2001	2h 23
2002	2h 23
2003	2h 23
2004	2h 01
2005	2h 12
2006	2h 12
2007	2h 12

Southampton-London Waterloo

	Time
1997	1h 13
1998	1h 13
1999	1h 16
2000	1h 16
2001	1h 18
2002	1h 16
2003	1h 16
2004	1h 18
2005	1h 19
2006	1h 19
2007	1h 19

The Portsmouth to Waterloo via Eastleigh service has been subject to various stopping patterns. Prior to 2004 it was literally all stations, then became fast from Basingstoke, and now is a semi fast.

The Southampton to Waterloo journey time is based on the fast service and has marginally increased through extended dwell times with the modern stock.

Road Signs and Markings

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward amendments to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 to enable the shape of a pedestrian to be painted on the road surface at the approach to pedestrian crossings as an additional safety measure. [137876]

Gillian Merron: No, as no road safety purpose would be served. The presence of a pedestrian crossing is already indicated by zigzag markings on the approaches, Belisha beacons or traffic signals. If there is an identified need for further warning, there are prescribed warning signs for zebra crossings and for signalled crossings.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times local highways authorities *(a)* faced civil action and *(b)* paid any amount in settlement for liability claims made against them for the (i) absence and (ii) incorrect positioning of a road sign on a public highway in each of the last five years. [138228]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* This information is not kept centrally.

Road Traffic: Stonehenge

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency (i) is undertaking and (ii) has undertaken into (A) potential solutions to the traffic congestion in the vicinity of Stonehenge and (B)

alternative routes to redirect the A303 away from Stonehenge following the public inquiry into the A303 at Stonehenge completed in 2005. [137987]

Dr. Ladyman: Following the public inquiry into the A303 Stonehenge Improvement scheme, the Department has led an inter-departmental review of the scheme and alternative options. The review was necessary because of a significant increase in the cost of the proposed tunnel past Stonehenge. Detailed work on the assessment of options has been carried out by the Highways Agency.

As well as the published scheme heard at the public inquiry (with its proposals for a 2.1 km long twin-bored tunnel), the options chosen for detailed review included:

a (cheaper) cut-and-cover tunnelled scheme;

surface routes for upgrading the A303 passing to the north and south of Stonehenge; and

partial solutions, comprising various combinations of closing the local A344 road (which runs immediately adjacent to Stonehenge), improving the junctions on the A303 either side of Stonehenge at Amesbury and Longbarrow (at the boundaries of the World Heritage Site) and providing a bypass for the local village of Winterbourne Stoke (to the west of Stonehenge).

The Review Group submitted its report to Ministers last summer. However, in order to understand more fully the effects of the partial solutions on the operation of the A303 and the local road network, it was clear that further detailed analysis based on up-to-date traffic information was needed. Fresh traffic surveys were carried out by the Highways Agency last autumn to provide the basis for further analytical work which is currently being undertaken. The results from this work will be considered alongside the findings of the Review Group to inform our decision on the way forward for this scheme.

Rolling Stock

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the new railway carriages announced by his Department in March will be introduced by the end of each year between 2008 and 2013; and on which routes. [137337]

Mr. Tom Harris: As we have consistently made clear, it is too early to say where precisely the additional rolling stock will be used. The deployment of the new rolling stock will be agreed with the industry following the publication of the high level output specification and the long-term rail strategy this summer, in accordance with the periodic review timetable set out in the ORR's advice to Ministers published in February 2007.

The precise phasing of the orders will reflect where crowding relief is most urgently needed; any preparatory platform-lengthening or increase in power supply which may be required to accommodate longer trains; and the capacity of the suppliers of rolling stock.

South West Trains: Fares

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the change in the level of non-regulated fares on South West Train services was in each year since 2000-01; and if he will make a statement. [138123]

Mr. Tom Harris: Changes in unregulated fares on South West Trains are a commercial matter for South West Trains. It is in their interests to provide an attractive range of fares and to encourage more passengers to use the railway.

Traffic Lights

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1676-77W, on traffic lights, how much was spent in financial year 2006-07 on installing traffic responsive signals; and how much he expects to be spent in financial year 2007-08. [138511]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally. The Department does not monitor local authority expenditure on installing traffic responsive signals. With respect to the strategic road network, most Highways Agency signals are traffic responsive, but as traffic signal installation costs are not separately recorded or forecast, it is not possible to confirm the total related expenditure.

TREASURY

Capital Allowances: Biofuels

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the process is for obtaining approval for equipment to qualify for the enhanced capital allowances for biofuel equipment; who is responsible for submitting an application for approval; what criteria need to be satisfied for approval to be given; how long it is expected to take for a decision to be made; what remedy is available to those whose applications are unsuccessful; from what date applications may be made; and if he will make a statement; [138078]

(2) if he will make a statement on the criteria to be satisfied for equipment to qualify for the enhanced capital allowances for biofuel equipment announced in the Budget. [138083]

John Healey *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* In Budget 2007, the Government announced their intention to apply for state aid approval for an EGA scheme to support the most carbon-efficient biofuels plant. This process is ongoing.

Once that approval has been obtained it will be for DEFRA to consider and approve applications for the scheme.

Council Tax: Armed Forces

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Ministry of Defence and *(b)* the Department for Communities and Local Government on the proposed council tax waiver for service personnel on operations overseas; and if he will make a statement. [138807]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials have frequent meetings with colleagues from other Government Departments on a wide range of issues as part of policy

development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests were made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in each year since 2005; and how many of those requests were unsuccessful. [137852]

John Healey: For the most recent monitoring statistics I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Camberwell and Peckham (Ms Harman) on 18 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 7WS.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [137671]

John Healey: The Treasury currently has no staff classified as people without posts.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project; [137792]

(2) what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years; [137793]

(3) what value of annual private finance initiative payments by his Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project; [137794]

(4) what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments were *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137795]

John Healey: The Treasury has one PFI project which relates to the 1 Horse Guards Road building. All payments made under PFI are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

Full details of the 1 Horse Guards Road PFI project have been included in the Department's resource accounts in each year since its inception in 2002-03. Copies of the Treasury's resource accounts are available on the Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/resourceaccounts/resourceaccounts_index.cfm

Revenue and Customs: Mansfield

Mr. Meale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the administration costs of the HM Revenue and Customs Chaucer House office in Mansfield were in each of the last two years, broken down by main budget heading. [137913]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Paymaster General on 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1312W.

Revenue and Customs: Offices

Mr. Meale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many responses to the consultation on HM Revenue and Customs local offices were received, broken down by *(a)* area and *(b)* medium of contact. [137901]

John Healey: The number of responses to each of the staff and union consultation exercises that have so far been concluded, and summary findings published to staff, under HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) regional review programme are set out in the table.

All staff and union responses were sent by e-mail, most to a dedicated mailbox. Treasury Ministers and the Board of HMRC have also received written responses direct from hon. Members and other external stakeholders as shown in the following table.

Urban central consultation ended	*Number of e-mail responses*	*Number of staff represented by responses*	*Number of MPs responding*	*Number of others responding*
London				
Central London 5 October 2006	185	1,580	0	0
Outer London 21 February 2007	129	1,106	8	4
South East				
Reading	26	114	0	0
Southampton and Portsmouth 21 February 2007	156	420	5	10
East				
Peterborough	54	122	4	0
Southend	32	75	4	0
East Midlands				
Northampton	39	178	4	0
Nottingham/ Derby and Leicester	162	336	15	4

Urban central consultation ended	Number of e-mail responses	Number of staff represented by responses	Number of MPs responding	Number of others responding
Yorkshire and Humberside				
Leeds/ Bradford/ Shipley	190	687	18	16
Sheffield	76	188	5	1
14 March 2007				

Mr. Meale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the conclusions of the review of HM Revenue and Customs staff and offices. [137911]

John Healey: The timetable for the commencement of each of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) regional review programmes is available on its website: www.hmrc.gov.uk

It is expected that announcements on decisions will be published as soon as possible after the end of the feasibility process, which lasts for 12 to 16 weeks.

Smuggling: Meat

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures he is taking to ensure that bushmeat is not entering the UK. [138474]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* Bushmeat is covered by HMRC's powers to deal with animal products that are imported outside the veterinary checks regime under the products of animal origin ("POAO") regulations. These powers are limited to imports into Great Britain; responsibility in Northern Ireland rests with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland.

Bushmeat of animals listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ("CITES") may also breach the restrictions on import created by Council Regulation 338/97 and Commission Regulation 865/2006.

HMRC's approach is to deter and detect illegal imports of products of animal origin from entering Great Britain, continuing to target traffic from high risk countries based on risk assessment and intelligence.

In order to discharge this role HMRC have:

deployed extra front line detection staff supported by detector dogs. All HMRC's detection staff are deployed flexibly according to risk and include POAO among their multi-functional responsibilities.

undertaken a range of publicity and awareness raising initiatives to inform travellers and the UK public of the regulations. These include:

distribution of leaflets at points of entry, including leaflets produced in 10 languages;

high visibility posters displayed at major ports and airports;

advertising on ticket wallets issued by travel agents;

a press and radio publicity campaign in Nigeria;

videos to be shown on selected inbound international flights; and

information in the ABTA members' handbook.

worked in partnership with DEFRA in publicising the rules relating to POAO, for example a 60-second television filler advert; and

reported a number of cases for prosecution.

HMRC records POAO seizures as "bushmeat" where this was how the owners described the meat to customs officials. In order to test how much seized meat might have come from CITES-listed endangered species, HMRC and DEFRA jointly sponsored a study by Wildlife DNA Services Ltd to identify species composition.

The summary report is available at the following web address:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/bushmeat-summary.pdf

Further information on the Government's work regarding illegal imports of products of animal origin is contained in DEFRA's annual reports. The latest report is available at http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/illegali/pdf/review0405-0306.pdf and is also in the House Library.

Tax Allowances: Disabled People

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training HM Revenue and Customs officials receive on the use of VAT and tax exemption booklets which refer to exemptions for which people with disabilities are eligible. [137487]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs runs a comprehensive training programme for compliance staff on VAT lasting over seven months. Training covering reliefs from VAT is undertaken by officers at foundation level, which covers the first year of training and operational work. As part of this programme there is a mandatory learning unit covering Reliefs for Disabled People and Charities, this covers the tax exemptions booklets that refer to exemptions for which people with disabilities are eligible. These are also covered in other learning units on Scope of Zero rating, Construction Industry and Land and Property.

Teenage Pregnancy: Wirral

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the teenage conception rate was for each ward in the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral at the latest available date. [138438]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 May 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the teenage conception rate was for each ward in the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral at the latest available date. (138438)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination. The government definition of teenagers in relation to conceptions refers to girls aged under 18.

Figures on teenage conceptions are not routinely published at ward level due to concerns in maintaining confidentiality of

individuals. Figures are however published at local authority level and figures for the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for 2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the table below, for girls under 18 and separately for girls under 20. Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Teenage conceptions: Numbers and Rates for Metropolitan Borough of Wirral, 2005[1]

	Under 18		Under 20	
	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[3]
Wirral	301	45	711	67

[1] Figures for 2005 are provisional.
[2] Rate per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17.
[3] Rate per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19.

UN Licensing System

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 25WS, on the UN Licensing System, for how many individuals his Department instructed the Department for Work and Pensions to suspend benefit payments in each month since July 2006. [133237]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

Following the Economic Secretary to the Treasury's statement about counter terrorism and the licensing system, in which he announced that benefit paid to members of the households of listed persons fall within the prohibitions on making funds available to listed persons, four spouses of persons listed by the UN under the Al-Qaida and Taliban financial sanctions regime had their benefit suspended in mid July 2006. To date, there have been no further suspensions of benefit of the spouses or household members of listed persons. All four spouses whose benefit was suspended now have it paid under licence, three of whom have it paid into an account set up and controlled by the Treasury.

In addition, four individuals who have themselves been listed under United Nations legislation or designated by the Treasury under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006 have had their benefits suspended—one in August 2006, one in December 2006, one in January/February 2007 and one in March/April 2007. Some of these have applied or are applying to the Treasury for a licence to enable benefit to be reinstated.

A significantly greater number of individuals than this have been listed or designated under the Terrorism Order but no current action is required because they are not in receipt of benefit. This is commonly because the individual is being held on remand in prison.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1859W, on the Valuation Office Agency, if he will place in the Library copies of the background papers on the development and implementation of an automated valuation model research project. [129487]

Mr. Timms: The papers concerned are commercially confidential and relate to the formulation of Government policy. It would be inappropriate to deposit them in the Library.

Wealth

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will update HM Revenue and Customs' table 13.5 on the distribution of marketable wealth; and if he will make a statement. [137675]

Ed Balls: The publication of Table 13.5 has been delayed by methodological problems as detailed in an announcement on the HMRC website (http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/delay-tables-13-1-13-5.pdf). Work is continuing to address the problems and a further announcement will be made by the end of June.

Welfare Tax Credits: Welfare Milk

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families with an entitlement to milk tokens are not receiving them because their tax credits are not being paid by the automatic computer system. [136540]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. However, HMRC and the Department of Health have put processes in place to ensure that those on manual payments receive their milk tokens that they are entitled to.

WALES

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138454]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office currently has commissioned a project initiation document from Bovis Lend Lease Limited. The cost of this document will be £4,700 and this will form part of the business case and delivery plan to assist in taking forward the proposed refurbishment project of Gwydyr House.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [137672]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project; [137820]

(2) what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)*

capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years; [137821]

(3) what value of annual private finance initiative payments by his Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project; [137822]

(4) what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments by his Department was *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137823]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not have any private finance initiative projects. Under the machinery of Government change, in June 2003 the Wales Office became a separate entity within the Department for Constitutional Affairs (now Ministry of Justice).

Prior to 2003 the Wales Office services were supplied by the National Assembly for Wales.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to improve understanding of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis among employers. [138271]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department recognises that chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis is a real and potentially debilitating condition that can affect individuals' capability for work and their chances of finding and retaining employment. However, our work to engage and support employers and tackle discrimination is not focused on specific conditions but looks at health conditions and disabilities in the round.

DWP has, in recent years, run a number of campaigns aimed at raising the general awareness of disability issues among employers and is currently developing an employer-led campaign to better engage employers with the recruitment and retention of disabled people. The campaign will address issues at both corporate and local delivery levels. It will also seek to influence the attitudes and behaviour of expert advisers and job market intermediaries.

Meanwhile, changing employer perceptions on health problems has been identified as a key priority for the cross-government Health, Work and Well-being Strategy. The strategy's National Stakeholder Council, which comprises senior members of key stakeholder groups such as the Confederation of British Industry, Federation of Small Businesses, Trades Union Congress and Association of British Insurers, has decided that one of its four areas of focus will be on "engaging employers as leading advocates of change".

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1064W, on branding, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* guidelines issued to staff on maintaining his Department's corporate identity and *(b)* final 2004 report on the review of his Department's corporate image. [136022]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member on 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 168W.

Departments: Task Forces

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* task forces and *(b)* units operate in his Department; what the annual budget is of each; and how many staff each unit employs, broken down by civil service grade. [127764]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is set out in the following tables. The information in the tables covers all of the Department's task forces. The information on business units represents the most detailed breakdown available from centrally held records.

The Department's organisational architecture comprises business units designed to deliver: departmental-wide strategy and planning; strategies and policies to meet the needs of particular customer groups; direct delivery of services to customers; and delivery of departmental-wide shared services. Within each of these business units specific responsibilities fall to functions designated as directorates and divisions.

Also within these business units there are smaller business functions that are described as units but data are not held centrally on their functions, budgets or staffing and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Task force	*Staff profile by grade*	*Financial allocation for 2007-08 (£)*
Jobcentre Plus Provision Forum	1 x SCS PB 2[1] 3 x SCS PB 1[1] 1 x Band F[1]	[2]800
Health Professionals Advisory Group	Grade SCS PB2 and Band C[1]	[3]0
Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) Ethics Committee	2 x Band G	[3]0
	1 x Band F	[3]0
Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force	Band E and Band D[1]	15,000
Transformation of the Personal Capability Assessment (PCA) Consultative Group	SCS PB 1[1]	[3]0
Health Work and Well-being (HWWB) National Stakeholder Council	0 civil servants	50,000
SSP (Statutory Sick Pay) Review Group	Band E and Band D[1]	[3]0

Task force	Staff profile by grade	Financial allocation for 2007-08 (£)
Official Error	1 x SCS PB1[1]	[4]0
	4 x UG6[1]	[4]0
	2 x UG7[1]	[4]0
	3 x SEO[1]	[4]0
	1 x HEO[1]	[4]0

[1] On part-time basis.
[2] £800 per year for meetings only.
[3] No funding other than staff costs.
[4] No dedicated budget.

DWP staffing as at 31 March 2007

Business	SCS	G6/ G7	SEO	HEO	EO	AO/ AA	Total
Jobcentre Plus	58	503	1,129	3,847	25,589	36,820	67,946
The Pension Service	22	159	309	683	3,750	7,785	12,707
Child Support Agency	23	131	146	515	2,989	7,420	11,224
Disability Carers Service	7	48	76	298	2,143	3,415	5,988
Shared Services	5	64	106	246	671	3,260	4,553
The Rent Service	1	12	25	90	372	143	643
Work Welfare and Equality Group	35	217	190	316	241	102	1,102
Pensions Client Directorate	21	93	85	142	62	56	459
Group Finance	23	118	188	372	610	208	1,519
Human Resources	11	62	88	209	169	68	607
Programme and Systems Delivery	29	137	50	52	35	16	319
Other Corporate Units	42	251	121	359	365	268	1,406
Total DWP	277	1,796	2,514	7,129	37,195	59,561	108,472

Notes:
1. Figures are full time equivalent (rounded)
2. Other corporate units include Change Management, Information Directorate, Strategy, Solicitors, Private Office, Communications and independent statutory bodies
3. Figures may not sum due to rounding

Departmental resource allocations 2007-08

Business	£ million Total resource 2007-08
Jobcentre Plus	2,807
The Pension Service	515
Child Support Agency	443
Disability Carers Service	208
Shared Services	1
The Rent Service	35
Work Welfare and Equality Group	1,872
Pensions Client Directorate	117
Group Finance	600
Human Resources	81
Programme and Systems Delivery	702
Other corporate units	713

Departmental resource allocations 2007-08

Business	£ million Total resource 2007-08
Total DWP	8,094

Notes:
1. Figures do not include EYF from 2006-07 as carry forward to 2007-08 not yet agreed.
2. Figures include EYF from 2005-06, but the draw down has not been agreed with HMT, therefore may feature in the final allocation.
3. Figures do not include additional funding as agreed by the 2007 Budget.
4. The figure is for total resource and includes Admin, DEL programme and capital.

Source:
Period 12 2006-07 Budget Book

Departments: Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1828-29W, on departments: training, how many staff in his Department attended *(a)* self development and *(b)* self awareness training courses in 2006. [138000]

Mrs. McGuire: Considerable effort and resources would need to be used on interrogating the Staff Information System in order to obtain information that could be used to identify the level of detail required for 2006. Obtaining this level of information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Job Centre Plus offices have closed in each region in England since 2005. [138300]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 22 May 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the number of Jobcentre Plus offices, which have been closed in England in each of the Regions since 2005. This is something, which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Office closures occur for a variety of reasons; first, as we rationalise the old Social Security and Employment Services Estate to create the new Jobcentre Plus Network; second, as a result of centralising benefit processing and our Contact Centre activities; third as a part of our ongoing commitment to ensure that our services are provided in the most efficient manner.

I attach a list showing the total number of closures in England since 2005 resulting from the above activities, broken down by region.

I hope this information is helpful.

Office closures by English regions since 2005 (as at 16 May 2007)

	Number
East of England	30
East Midlands	25
London	52
North East	18
North West	45
South East	33
South West	26

Office closures by English regions since 2005 (as at 16 May 2007)

	Number
West Midlands	41
Yorkshire and Humberside	31

Jobseeker's Allowance: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in Copeland were registered for jobseeker's allowance in the financial year ending *(a)* March 1997 and *(b)* March 2007; [138633]

(2) how many people in Copeland were registered as unemployed in the financial year ending *(a)* March 1997 and *(b)* March 2007. [138636]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

As at March 1997, there were 2,940 people in Copeland claiming jobseeker's allowance. As at March 2007, there were 1,110 people in Copeland claiming jobseeker's allowance. These figures include those receiving national insurance credits only.

LinkAge Plus Centres

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many LinkAge Plus centres have been established in the last 12 months; where they were established; and what budget has been allocated to Link Age Plus. [138301]

James Purnell: Eight LinkAge Plus pilots have been established to expand the principles of joined up working by providing access to a wide range of services for older people, beyond the traditional benefits and care agendas.

The pilots are located in Devon, Gateshead, Gloucestershire, Lancaster, Leeds, Nottinghamshire, Salford and Tower Hamlets.

The LinkAge Plus programme has up to £10 million available over two years—for 2006-07 and 2007-08.

New Deal Schemes: Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of New Deal participants were placed in *(a)* sustained and *(b)* unsustained employment in each year since the scheme began, broken down by New Deal provider. [137753]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* Information on the proportion of New Deal participants placed into sustained and unsustained employment in each year since the programme began, broken down by New Deal provider, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pensions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government have taken to protect and regulate pensions in each year since 1997. [134038]

James Purnell *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* Since 1997, the Government have introduced or strengthened a number of safeguards to protect and regulate defined benefit occupational pension schemes.

In August 1998 the Financial Services Regulator announced a further stage of the review covering those not in the priority categories to identify cases where people were badly advised to opt out of, not join, and/or transfer funds from an occupational pension scheme in favour of a personal pension.

From 30 December 2005 new scheme funding requirements require trustees to develop prudent scheme funding strategies, on a scheme specific basis, for meeting their scheme's pension commitments.

A series of other Regulations between 2002 and 2005, strengthened the employer debt for schemes in wind-up, resulting in a 'full buy-out' debt for schemes sponsored by solvent and insolvent employers, or where an employer withdraws from a multi-employer scheme.

The Pensions Act 2004 introduced:

The Pensions Regulator, which replaced Opra from 6 April 2005 this has a broad range of powers to help fulfil its statutory objectives. These include protecting the benefits of occupational pension scheme members. The Regulators act quickly to anticipate and tackle any risks to the benefits of those members.

The Pension Protection Fund, which provides protection to members of eligible defined benefit occupational pension schemes where the employer becomes insolvent (after 6 April 2005) and leaves the scheme under-funded. The Pension Protection Fund went live on 6 April 2005.

The Financial Assistance Scheme, which provides support to members of defined benefit occupational pension schemes which started to wind up, under funded (between 1 January 1997 and 5 April 2005). The Financial Assistance Scheme began operations on 1 September 2005.

Government legislated to create a new FSA-regulated activity of establishing, operating or winding up a personal pension scheme, with a new rules taking effect from 6 April 2007. This change will extend consumer protection to all aspects of personal pensions as well as open the market up to greater competition.

Pensions Schemes

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* expertise and *(b)* training requirements of trustees of pension fund schemes; [138269]

(2) what steps he plans to take to improve the governance arrangements of pension fund scheme trusts. [138270]

James Purnell: The Government recognise the importance of pension scheme governance and the vital role of pension scheme trustees. While they have no current plans to introduce further legislation in this area, nor to assess the expertise or training requirements of trustees directly, the strategic priorities of the pensions regulator include improving the governance of work-based pension schemes and the training of trustees.

The regulator has already provided trustees and their advisers with extensive guidance on a range of governance issues such as internal controls and risk management through codes of practice and other guidance. The regulator has also established a free e-learning programme for trustees, the 'Trustee toolkit', providing easily accessible information which has been well received.

The regulator will build upon this work by implementing the initiatives outlined in its discussion paper on scheme governance published in April 2007. These relate to managing conflicts, the employer covenant, relations with advisers, issues around administration, investment choices and winding-up of schemes.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent measures he has taken to reduce fraudulent claims for benefits. [137898]

Mr. Plaskitt: Since 1997, the Department has developed and implemented a comprehensive strategy for reducing fraud. Our strategy is working—the latest National Statistics report published on 1 February 2007 estimated that, across all benefits, around £0.7 billion (0.6 per cent. of benefit expenditure) was overpaid in 2005-06 due to benefit fraud. This is down from an estimated £2 billion (2.0 per cent. of benefit expenditure) in 2001. We are determined to continue building on this success in the future by, for example, trying new data matching initiatives with credit reference agencies.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many benefits offices provide 0845 numbers for the use of people seeking to contact them; and if he will make a statement; [132520]

(2) what the average cost was of telephone calls made to benefits offices on 0845 numbers in the last 12 months; what the total cost was of such calls; and if he will make a statement; [132528]

(3) what the *(a)* average number of calls before connection and *(b)* average time taken to get connected, not including connections to automated responses, was for people telephoning benefits offices using 0845 numbers in the last 12 months; [132529]

(4) what his policy is on charging members of the public who telephone Jobcentre Plus or benefits offices who are connected to an automated answering device but not subsequently connected to a member of staff; and if he will make a statement. [132540]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 22 May 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the use of 0845 numbers for calls to Benefit Delivery Centres and average telephone call costs. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

To date 54 sites have converted to 0845 numbers as part of the programme to centralise benefits, which is due for completion by March 2008. Uniform telephony data on numbers of calls, average length of calls and calls terminated after the automated answering service will not be available until this modernisation programme is complete. When this process is complete the new telephony system will provide more comprehensive management information and this will enable us to more effectively manage the telephone service to our customers.

We do not have data on the length of calls to telephony teams. If the benefit enquiry becomes complicated then the telephony team would make arrangements for a benefit specialist to call the customer back. The cost (set by BT) which begins once the customer has pressed the number on the automated response is between 1p and 3p per minute (from a landline) depending on the time of day. Call charges from mobile telephones vary depending on the service provider.

I hope this is helpful.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 23 May 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: Marketing

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors underlay her decision to change the branding of her Department from DCLG to Communities and Local Government; and if she will make a statement. [138727]

Angela E. Smith: The legal name of the Department remains the Department for Communities and Local Government.

In order to emphasise the mission of the Department, we use the term Communities and Local Government to refer to the Department wherever possible.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the meetings that she or her Ministerial colleagues attended where the re-branding of her Department from DCLG to Communities and Local Government was discussed. [138728]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer today (138727). The Department was not re-branded from DCLG, so there have been no such meetings.

Housing

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her estimate is of *(a)* the number of people who have participated in and *(b)* the level of public expenditure on Government initiatives to increase home ownership in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) local authority area and (ii) region; [105729]

(2) what her estimate is of the number of people in each region who will participate in Government initiatives to increase home ownership in future years. [105730]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows completions and expenditure through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) and Local Authority Social Housing Grant on low cost home ownership programmes. This investment reflects the overall public expenditure levels established by the previous administration and set for 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and the priority first given to tackling the backlog of £19 billion in council housing investment to provide decent homes. From 2004, investment decisions have reflected the priorities set by the regional housing boards for investment in their areas and since 2006-07, the Government's priority of providing more social rented homes.

	Completions	*Expenditure (£ million)*
1997-98	11,684	172
1998-99	8,874	125
1999-2000	5,112	94
2000-01	4,775	117
2001-02	4,352	118
2002-03	4,487	161
2003-04	6,912	343
2004-05[1]	11,409	459
2005-06	16,534	544

[1] Completion figures do not include VPG.

For the two years, 2006-07 and 2007-08, we plan to assist some 35,000 households into low cost home ownership through the Housing Corporation's AHP.

We have a target to assist 120,000 people into home ownership by 2010 and the homes being provided by the Housing Corporation will contribute to this. The number of homes to be provided from 2008-09 will be the subject of the comprehensive spending review 2007.

A table has been placed in the Library of the House displaying information on the homes provided for low cost home ownership and expenditure on these programmes from 1997-98 to 2005-06 through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) and Local Authority Social Housing Grant (LASHG) by local authority and region.

Neither table includes spend or completions through Starter Home Initiative, Thames Gateway or Right to Acquire figures. Funding and completions are not directly comparable, as funding will relate to projects running, not necessarily units completed, in any one year.

Housing: London

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many permanent dwellings were completed by registered social landlords in *(a)* Camden and *(b)* London in each year since 1990-91; [122934]

(2) how many permanent dwellings were completed by councils in *(a)* Camden and *(b)* London in each year since 1990-91. [122935]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 23 February 2007]:* The numbers of additional homes provided by local authorities and registered social landlords in Camden and Greater London in each year since 1991-92 are tabulated as follows. Information for the financial year 1990-91 is not available. Homes provided through new build as well as acquisitions have been included. Figures are as reported by local authorities and the Housing Corporation.

Affordable housing provision in Camden and Greater London: 1991-92 to 2005-06

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Local authority house building completions								
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London	580	169	146	223	45	23	52	35
Additional[1] social rent homes: Registered social landlords								
Camden	168	373	524	611	471	436	284	183
London	3,745	11,767	9,914	10,852	12,785	9,247	7,310	6,952
Additional[1] intermediate homes[2]: Registered social landlords								
Camden	59	81	128	82	152	137	112	96
London	1,601	3,023	4,162	4,971	4,318	3,398	3,142	2,796
Affordable housing provision[1] (total)								
Camden	227	454	652	693	623	573	396	279
London	5,926	14,959	14,222	16,046	17,148	12,868	10,504	9,783

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Local authority house building completions							
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London	0	79	27	71	12	0	4
Additional[1] social rent homes: Registered social landlords							
Camden	323	158	164	126	81	188	72
London	5,846	5,858	6,279	5,163	5,045	4,876	5,123
Additional[1] intermediate homes[2]: Registered social landlords							
Camden	19	25	34	103	253	149	242
London	1,793	1,755	1,479	3,003	6,018	4,600	6,113
Affordable housing provision[1] (total)							
Camden	342	183	198	229	334	337	314
London	7,639	7,692	7,785	8,237	11,075	9,476	11,240

[1] Includes both new builds and acquisitions
[2] Intermediate housing includes both low cost homes ownership schemes and homes provided for intermediate rent.
Source:
Housing Corporation, statistical returns from local authorities.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role she has played in local government reorganisation being undertaken by her Department. [138046]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State issued on 26 October 2006 an invitation to local authorities to submit proposals for unitary structures. The Secretary of State assessed proposals received against the five criteria set out in the invitation. On 27 March I announced that the Secretary of State had judged that 16 proposals should go forward for stakeholder consultation.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel are *(a)* deployed and *(b)* stationed at each location overseas. [136039]

Mr. Ingram: The following table shows the number of personnel deployed on operations by operation and location at 30 April 2007.

Number of personnel deployed by operation and location

Operation	*Number*
Total	15,010
Of which:	
Telic	7,260
Of which:	
Iraq	5,710
Other (including "at sea")	1,550
Herrick	7,100
Of which:	
Afghanistan	7,100
Oculus	320
Of which:	
Kosovo	170
Bosnia	150
UN	300
Of which:	
Cyprus	280
Other[1]	20

[1] Other UN locations have fewer than 10 personnel per country and include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

Note:

The strength of UK regular forces posted outside the UK is available in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 6—Global Location of UK Regular Forces. The most recent publication show the numbers of service personnel at 1 October 2006. Copies of TSP 6 are held in the House of Commons Library and are also available at: www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp6/tsp6-oct06.pdf.

Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system (JPA), TSP6 RAF location data for 1 April 2006 are provisional and subject to review, and after 1 April 2006 are not currently available. TSP6 Naval service location data are not currently available after 1 October 2006.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ex-service personnel pensioners who served in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force do not receive a full armed service pension. [138058]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Greater London

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an estimate has been made of the value of the property occupied by the general officer commanding London district. [138926]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 989W.

Departments: Money

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1463W, on Departments: money, what steps he is taking to reduce the amount of notes and coins lost each year. [138776]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 22 May 2007]*: Guidance on the safeguarding of cash is set out in Joint Service Publications 462 (Financial Management Policy Manual) and 501 (Imprest Accounting and Banking Policy Manual). The guidance is routinely updated, as necessary, to reflect any lessons learned.

A management action plan is also being implemented in response to the National Audit Office (NAO) report entitled "Ministry of Defence, Management of Losses and Special Payments" published in July 2006. Revised procedures include the requirement for top level budget holders to report the value of losses formally to the Finance Director on a quarterly basis. These are consolidated into departmental reports for the Defence Audit Committee.

Departments: Rates and Rating

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under which budget heads in his Department's accounts *(a)* council tax payments and *(b)* national non-domestic rate payments can be identified in respect of Ministry of Defence property. [138416]

Derek Twigg: All service accommodation in England, Scotland and Wales is formally exempt from the payment of council tax but the Ministry of Defence pays instead a Contribution in Lieu of Council Tax (CILOCT) to local authorities. CILOCT is broadly equivalent to the amount of tax that would otherwise be due based on an assessment made by the Department on the number and type of properties it occupies. These are agreed annually with individual authorities.

Both CILOCT and National Non-Domestic Rates are included within the 2005-06 Departmental Resource Accounts in the Operating Cost Statement as 'Other Operating Costs'. The costs are included within Note 10 under the description of 'Accommodation Charges'.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to local authorities for *(a)* council tax and *(b)* national non-domestic rates in respect of (i) Erskine Barracks, Wilton, (ii) Boscombe Down Airfield, (iii) Defence Science and Technology Laboratories, Porton Down and (iv) Royal Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth in 2006; and if he will make a statement. [138417]

Derek Twigg: In financial year 2006-07 the non domestic rates paid were:

Site	Amount (£)
Erskine Barracks, Wilton	197,015
Boscombe Down Airfield	1,136,625
Defence Science and Technology Laboratories, Porton Down	567,230
Royal Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth	2,622,245

All Service accommodation in England, Scotland and Wales is formally exempt from the council tax regime and the Ministry of Defence instead pays a contribution in lieu of council tax (CILOCT) to local authorities, broadly equivalent to the amount of tax that would otherwise be due. In financial year 2006-07, MOD paid some £2 million in CILOCT to Salisbury district council, which covers the sites at Erskine Barracks, Boscombe Down Airfield and Porton Down and some £700,000 to Portsmouth city council, which covers the Royal Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth. These payments cover both service families accommodation and single living accommodation.

I will write to the hon. Member with a further breakdown of payments made in relation to the specific sites requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Military Bases: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place a copy of the most recent defence estate health and safety inspection in the Library. [119245]

Derek Twigg: I understand that the hon. Member is referring to health and safety information published by the former Defence Housing Executive (DHE). The last health and safety information prepared by DHE was reported in the DHE agency annual report and accounts 2003-04, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

DHE formally ceased to be a Defence agency on 1 April 2004 and was merged with Defence Estates (DE) from that date. DE's subsequent annual report and accounts have provided details of the governance procedures in DE for safety, health, environment and fire. The last such report covered 2005-06 and a copy is available in the Library of the House.

In managing the provision of Service Families Accommodation (SFA), DE is responsible for ensuring that a range of SFA safety inspections are carried out. These include gas safety inspections, inspection and testing of electrical installations, and inspections in accordance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations. Such inspections are carried out by the housing prime contractor, Modern Housing Solutions (MHS).

DE's annual report and accounts for 2006-07 are being prepared. Once completed, I will place a copy in the Library of the House.

NATO: Uniforms

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the wearing of the NATO logo on armed forces uniforms. [138369]

Derek Twigg: It is usual multinational practice for troops under NATO command to wear the NATO logo. This is to ensure that they are easily recognised as being members of NATO forces.

University Officer Training Corps

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the strength is of the University Officer Training Corps; how many applicants were turned down for the current academic year because there were no vacancies; and if he will make a statement; [137914]

(2) if he will increase the strength of the University Officer Training Corps by *(a)* expanding existing units and *(b)* creating new units; and if he will make a statement. [137915]

Derek Twigg: The current overall strength of the University Officer Training Corps is approximately 5,030 (including the instructional staff). The actual strength of the student body is currently approximately 4,430[1]. Demand can exceed capacity and a selection process is adopted similar to that which governs Officer Selection at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Candidates can fail to gain entry for a number of reasons, not just because of capacity constraints. A list of reasons given for non-selection of individuals is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There are currently no plans to increase the strength of the University Officer Training Corps by either expanding existing units or creating new ones. A contingent can only be formed when specifically requested by a university. There have been no formal requests for a new contingent by a university since the year 2000.

[1] In accordance with departmental policy, figures have been rounded.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities Advisory Trust: Finance

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Charities Advisory Trust has received from the public purse since it was set up; and for what purpose funding was provided. [138939]

Edward Miliband: I understand the Charities Advisory Trust received funding from the Home Office when it was established in 1979. There are no current records of recent funding for the Charities Advisory Trust

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by her Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138464]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald), the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) and the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1631W.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland undertook apprenticeships in each of the last two years; and what percentage went on to find employment in the field of their apprenticeship. [134761]

Phil Hope: Figures for those participating in apprenticeships funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) derive from the Individual Learner Record (ILR). The table shows the number of learners on Advanced Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships in the North East and in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

	Advanced apprenticeship	*Apprenticeship*	*Total*
2004-05			
North East	10,430	19,150	29,590
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	480	800	1,280
2005-06			
North East	10,450	18,510	28,960
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	440	730	1,180

The ILR does not collect information about the field of employment learners go into on completion of their apprenticeships although because the vast majority of apprentices are employed during their training it is probable that most will stay in the same field of employment on completion of their training.

Babies: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many babies were abandoned by their parents in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [125237]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not collected by the Department for Education and Skills.

Carers: Education

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he has taken to support carers while they are engaged in learning activities; and if he will make a statement. [121268]

Mr. Dhanda: Statutory responsibility for supporting carers under the age of 18 who have been assessed as children in need lies with the local authorities concerned, and my Department issued guidance with the Department of Health in August 2005 on the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 and the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004. The latter Act requires authorities, in making an assessment, to take into account the carer's wishes to undertake education, training, work, or a leisure activity.

The Department's guidance to administrators of the discretionary Access to Learning Fund covers students with caring responsibilities, although this is chiefly designed with adult carers in mind. Young carers in full-time education—that is, with at least 12 guided learning hours per week—may be eligible for Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs). Although in general a weekly allowance payment is only made to a student where they have attended all required sessions, a school or college has discretion to authorise an absence caused by caring responsibilities. Learning providers should not, however, authorise a student's absences regularly for this reason.

Carers aged over 16 who provide at least 35 hours of care a week may be entitled to Carers Allowance, where they are undertaking less than 21 hours a week of supervised study, and institutions will need to take this into account when considering appropriate arrangements for enabling carers to access learning.

Children in Care

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will include in the White Paper following Care Matters proposals for regulatory change to enable young people to stay in care longer; and if he will make a statement. [138113]

Mr. Dhanda: The forthcoming White Paper on children in care will set out the Government's proposals for delivery across services for children in care. It will follow on from the proposals published in the Care Matters Green Paper last year and will include information about how we intend to support young people so that they only move from their care placement with proper preparation when they feel ready to leave. In general, this will mean that we would expect young people to remain longer with their carers.

Children in Care: Custodial Treatment

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people in the care of a local authority received *(a)* a custodial and *(b)* a non-custodial sentence in 2006. [134482]

Mr. Dhanda: At present, this information is not collected centrally; data on the number of children who ceased to be looked after because they have been sentenced to custody will be available from autumn 2007.

Children: Abuse

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to reduce the number of children experiencing physical abuse and neglect. [137881]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government are committed to improving safeguards for children. We have introduced new legislation, new guidance, new structures and new policy initiatives to make children safer and to ensure that there is a proper focus on children at the very heart of Government.

To reduce the amount of abuse and neglect we need safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to

be clearly everyone's responsibility—to be fundamental duties for everyone who has regular contact with children. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on all key agencies (including prisons, the police, and health bodies) to make arrangements for ensuring that their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It mirrors a requirement on education institutions in the Education Act 2002. We published updated guidance on the section 11 duty earlier this year.

Last year we set out clear guidance for the rest of the safeguarding framework with the publication of "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education", the new version of "Working Together To Safeguard Children", which is the core guidance to help all agencies act effectively to safeguard children, and an updated version of "What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused" which is a guide for front line staff. New Local Safeguarding Children Boards were put in place by April 2006 to co-ordinate what is done in each local area to safeguard children and to ensure that it is effective. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 will deliver the first centralised vetting and barring scheme for all those working with children and vulnerable adults.

The Act will introduce a new system with a number of improvements over the current arrangements to make the work force safer. These improvements include: bringing together in one place for expert judgement all information relevant to vetting and barring; introducing tough penalties on employers who fail in their responsibility to carry out the necessary checks; making barring decisions when new information becomes available, and notifying employers when an employee's status changes; and making it possible for parents to check that home tutors and nannies are members of the new vetting scheme. The new scheme will apply in the same way to the volunteers and those organising the work of volunteers as it will to employees and employers.

Departments: Manpower

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how his Department determines the staffing levels and grade mix for its directorates; and what cover for contingencies and emergencies is built into its resource planning for ongoing staff reductions in the Department. [137680]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's March 2008 target of 3,200 (full time equivalents) was set following Sir Peter Gershon's independent review of public sector efficiency. This recognised that the Department will be smaller but more strategic enabling it to deliver its priorities for improved outcomes for children and learners within the planned headcount. Reform programmes within each Directorate, underpinned by a project and programme management approach to delivery, allows the Department to focus its resources efficiently but flexibly.

The Department's board maintain an awareness of issues and business priorities and are regularly provided with detailed analysis of current and anticipated labour market and work force issues. The board decides any necessary reallocation of staff resources to best meet the needs of the business and ministerial priorities.

Cover for key staff and resource planning for incidents/emergencies are part of the business continuity planning process which is undertaken across the Department.

Departments: Market Research

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 290W, on Departments: market research, how much his Department spent on researching public opinion in each of the previous five years; and what methods his Department uses to research public opinion. [138502]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has spent a total of £527,128 on public opinion research surveys in the last five years. The research findings are available on the Department's website.

Financial Year	*Cost (excluding VAT) (£)*
2002-03	111,500
2003-04	113,840
2004-05	65,521
2005-06	123,736
2006-07	112,531

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136862]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Eastern Region

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people received *(a)* £30, *(b)* £20 and *(c)* £10 in education maintenance allowance in (i) North West Cambridgeshire constituency and (ii) the East of England in each year since the scheme began; and what percentage of all young people in the area each figure represented. [134213]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the DfES and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 15 May 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 134213 that asked:

"How many young people received *(a)* £30, *(b)* £20 and *(c)* £10 in education maintenance allowance in (i) North West Cambridgeshire constituency and (ii) the East of England in each year since the scheme began; and what percentage of all young people in the area each figure represented."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received education maintenance allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at constituency level EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The following tables show EMA take-up data split by payment band for Cambridgeshire local authority area and East of England during each academic year since the schemes inception.

Take-up of EMA in each academic year

Band	£30	£20	£10	Total
2004/05				
Cambridgeshire	1,203	257	277	1,737
East of England	17,367	2,936	3,308	23,613
2005/06				
Cambridgeshire	2,314	421	424	3,159
East of England	28,973	4,771	4,407	38,151
2006/07 to end April				
Cambridgeshire	2,974	474	446	3,894
East of England	36,608	5,278	4,720	46,606

In the first year of national roll out EMA was available to all 16-years-olds across England and to 17 and 18-years-olds in former pilot areas (young people who are 19 are entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances). In 2005/06 EMA roll out continued and EMA, was available to all 16 and 17-year-olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA is available to all 16, 17 and 18-year-olds nationally. In calculating the percentage of young people receiving EMA only take up and population figures for age groups where EMA was available nationally have been used.

The following table shows the percentage of young people receiving EMA in Cambridgeshire local authority area and East of England during each academic year since national roll out.

Percentage of population receiving EMA in each academic year

	2004/05 (16-year-olds only)	2005/06 (16 and 17-year-olds)	2006/07 to end January (16, 17 and 18-year-olds)
Cambridgeshire	23	21	17
East of England	29	26	22

I hope this information is useful and addresses your question.

Foundation Degrees

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students were studying for foundation degrees in each of the last five years, broken down by course title. [138129]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* The latest available information is shown in the following table. Data, relating specifically to the course title of foundation degrees, are not held centrally.

Total number of students enrolled on foundation degrees in higher education institutions and further education colleges in England—academic years 2002/03 to 2006/07

	Number of students
2002/03	12,310
2003/04	23,945
2004/05	37,820
2005/06	46,780
2006/07	60,925

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. 2006/07 values are provisional. Figures for earlier years have been subject to minor changes where institutions were given the opportunity to further verify and then correct any data errors found in their returns, the figures therefore differ slightly to those published previously.

Source:
Higher Education Students Early Statistics Survey (HESES)

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of pupils in mainstream maintained secondary schools achieved five A* to C GCSEs including English, mathematics, science, a modern language and either history or geography in each year between 1997 and 2006. [129707]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table and reflects the increased level of qualification choice at key stage 4.

15-year-old[1] pupils at maintained mainstream schools[2] who achieved five or more A-C at GCSE including English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and History or Geography[3]*

	Number	Percentage
1997	100,099	43.8
1998	102,755	44.4
1999	109,306	44.8
2000	109,788	43.8
2001	115,362	43.5
2002	112,086	40.6
2003	105,829	36.1
2004	108,430	35.3
2005	104,139	32.6
2006	97,020	28.6

[1] Aged 15 at the beginning of the academic year.
[2] Includes academies, community schools, voluntary aided schools, foundation schools and city technology colleges.
[3] Includes pupils who achieved both grades A*-C at both Geography and History GCSE and those that gained a grade A*-C at GCSE in either Geography or History

Higher Education: Funding

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the statement of the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning of 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 225WH, on higher education (funding), what figures he used to calculate that there is on average net £100,000 graduate earnings premium; and how he used those figures to reach that final figure. [138731]

Bill Rammell: Over the working life, the average net graduate earnings premium is comfortably over £100,000 in today's valuation, compared to what a similar individual would have earned if they just had A levels.

The data which underpin this figure are taken from the Labour Force Survey. We estimate the effect on net additional earnings from getting a degree, after allowing for factors like gender, age, and the probability of being employed. The figures are also discounted so that they are in 'today's valuation'. Comparing the lifetime earnings profiles of otherwise similar graduates and those with A levels, we find that graduates can expect to earn, after taxation, over £100,000 more than similar non-graduates. Recent research by PricewaterhouseCoopers estimated the discounted gross (i.e. pre-tax) additional lifetime earnings associated with a degree to be around £160,000.

Higher Education: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many students from Hartlepool constituency were allocated a university place in each year since 1996; [137357]

(2) how many students from Hartlepool constituency went to *(a)* each university and *(b)* university in each region of the UK in the last year for which information is available. [137439]

Bill Rammell: The total numbers of undergraduate entrants to UK Higher Education Institutions from Hartlepool parliamentary constituency for each year since 1996/97 are given in the table. Figures for the 2006/07 academic year will be available in January 2008.

Number of entrants to undergraduate courses[1] from Hartlepool parliamentary constituency—UK Higher Education Institutions[2] academic years 1996/97 to 2005/06

Academic year	Number of entrants
1996/97	500
1997/98	535
1998/99	620
1999/2000	615
2000/01	770
2001/02	825
2002/03	960
2003/04	940
2004/05	940
2005/06	985

[1] Covers students on full-time and part-time modes of study.
[2] Excludes the Open University.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at the 1 of December for comparability and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The latest available information for the number of students from Hartlepool parliamentary constituency who went to each university in the UK split by the government office region of the institution is given in the following table, for the 2005/06 academic year.

Number of entrants to undergraduate courses[1] from Hartlepool parliamentary constituency by institution and Government Office Region of the Institution—UK Higher Education Institutions[2] academic year 2005/06

Government Office Region/Institution	Number of entrants
North East	
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	95
The University of Sunderland	145
The University of Teesside	510
University of Durham	20
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	30
Total	800
North West	
Edge Hill University	5
St. Martin's College	3
The University of Central Lancashire	10
Liverpool John Moores University	3
The Manchester Metropolitan University	5
The University of Lancaster	5
The University of Liverpool	5
The University of Salford	3
Cumbria Institute of the Arts	3
The University of Manchester	5
Total	35
Yorkshire and the Humber	
York St. John University College	10
Trinity and All Saints College	3
The University of Huddersfield	10
Leeds Metropolitan University	25
Sheffield Hallam University	5
The University of Hull	10
The University of Leeds	10
The University of Sheffield	3
The University of York	5
Total	75
East Midlands	
The University of Northampton	3
The University of Lincoln	3
De Montfort University	5
The Nottingham Trent University	5
The University of Leicester	3
Loughborough University	3
The University of Nottingham	5
Total	15
West Midlands	
University of Central England in Birmingham	3
Coventry University	3
The University of Wolverhampton	3

Number of entrants to undergraduate courses[1] from Hartlepool parliamentary constituency by institution and Government Office Region of the Institution—UK Higher Education Institutions[2] academic year 2005/06

Government Office Region/Institution	Number of entrants
Aston University	[3]
The University of Birmingham	5
The University of Warwick	[3]
Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies	[3]
Total	10
East	
Anglia Ruskin University	5
University of Hertfordshire	[3]
The University of Cambridge	5
The University of Essex	[3]
Total	10
London	
University of the Arts, London	[3]
Rose Bruford College	[3]
Kingston University	[3]
London South Bank University	[3]
Thames Valley University	[3]
Brunei University	[3]
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	[3]
The Royal Veterinary College	[3]
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	[3]
London Metropolitan University	[3]
Total	10
South East	
The University of Brighton	[3]
Oxford Brookes University	5
The University of Portsmouth	5
The University of Kent	[3]
The University of Oxford	5
The University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury	[3]
Total	10
South West	
University of Gloucestershire	[3]
The University of Plymouth	5
The University of Bath	[3]
Total	5
Scotland	
The University of Edinburgh	5
Total	5
Wales	
University of Wales, Aberystwyth	[3]
Total	[3]
Northern Ireland	
The Queen's University of Belfast	[3]
Total	[3]
Total	985

[1] Covers students on full-time and part-time modes of study.
[2] Excludes the Open University. Excludes those institutions that did not have any entrants from Hartlepool parliamentary constituency.
[3] Number greater than zero but less than three.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at the 1 December for comparability and numbers are rounded to the nearest five therefore components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the participation rate in higher education is of people aged 18 to 21 in *(a)* each parliamentary constituency, *(b)* each local council area and (c) each electoral ward in the latest year for which figures are available. [138203]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures on participation in higher education by local areas were published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in January 2005 in "Young Participation in England", which is available from their website at: http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05 037. Copies have been placed in the House Library.

This report shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19 for the years 1997 to 2000 by parliamentary constituency, local authority and Learning and Skills Council areas. HEFCE have not produced participation rates beyond 2000.

The Department uses the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) to assess progress on increasing first-time participation of English students aged 18-30 in higher education towards 50 per cent.: the latest provisional figure for 2005/06 is 43 per cent. The HEIPR is not calculated at parliamentary constituency level or local authority level.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 344W, on the Olympic games: Greater London, how his Department plans to monitor progress towards and achievement of the targets set by construction skills to address the skills needs of the Olympic project; whether these targets will extend beyond 2012; and if he will make a statement. [138894]

Phil Hope: The ConstructionSkills Council and CITB-ConstructionSkills' Board review performance against targets regularly, using data supplied by the Construction Skills Network. Regular meetings between CITB-ConstructionSkills and DFES at both official and ministerial level ensure that the Government is kept well-informed about progress. The achievements of key targets for London and the South East will to continue to be reported in CITB-ConstructionSkills's annual report which is laid before Parliament each spring.

The Construction Skills Network works to a five year forecasting model and current forecasts cover up to 2012. They are, however, working with the Office for Government Commerce to develop models for London, the Greater South East and the rest of the UK that extend 10 years forward. This will help to ensure that ConstructionSkills and the Government have a better understanding of the industry's capacity in the longer term.

Part-time Education

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the fees regime on the provision of part-time courses by higher education institutions. [135987]

Bill Rammell: The effect of the new fee and student support arrangements will be considered in 2009 by an independent review in the light of the data available at that time, but we expect both the demand for and supply of part-time courses provided by higher education institutions to expand as we increase and widen participation. An increasing proportion of such courses should be co-funded by employers.

Physical Education: Further Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proposals and programmes his Department has put in place to promote physical education and healthy living in the further education sector. [138849]

Bill Rammell: FE colleges are independent institutions catering for the diverse needs of young people and adults participating in learning. Colleges have an important role in promoting physical education and healthy living. Government funding is provided for all 16 to19-year-olds in FE to support a range of extra curricula activities including sport and health promotion. We are also supporting the FE sector as it implements a number of sector led initiatives to promote healthy living and participation in sport and physical education, including for the 2012 games. With Government funding, the new sector co-ordination and communications unit will ensure that learners in FE colleges benefit from and contribute to the success of the games. In addition, a wide range of publicly funded learning programmes for learners of all ages, ranging from construction through to hospitality and tourism, delivered through FE colleges, incorporate modules relating to physical education and health promotion.

Schools: Fingerprints

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether schools have powers to collect pupils' fingerprints without the prior written consent of parents; and if he will make a statement. [126223]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* Maintained schools have the power to collect pupils' personal data, including biometric data without prior written consent of parents. Under paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 1 of the Education Act 2002 the governing body of a maintained school has the legal power to do anything which appears to them to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of, or in connection with, the conduct of the school. Schools must process biometric data in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. DfES guidance recommends that schools should engage fully with parents and pupils if they decide to introduce biometric technology systems.

Schools: Parents

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidelines his Department has issued to schools on contacting students' parents. [139010]

Mr. Dhanda: In June 2000, the Department issued guidance to schools about who they must involve in issues about a child's education and who they must keep informed about school matters (Guidance DfES/0092/2000). It includes guidance about responding to non-resident parents who wish to be involved in their children's education.

A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library. It is in the process of being updated and a new version should be available later this year.

Schools: Safety Measures

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance, other than that relating to the Criminal Records Bureau checking procedures, he provides on the measures schools should take to ensure that they are safe. [138435]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The Department has a number of guidance documents aimed at keeping schools safe, in the sense of safeguarding pupils from abuse or neglect. We issued guidance last year to safeguard children in schools. "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" covers safeguarding children, recruitment and selection, vetting checks, and dealing with allegations of abuse against education staff.

Beyond this specific area of safeguarding from abuse or neglect, the Department also provides a wide range of guidance on other aspects of school, staff and pupil safety.

Sure Start Programme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many Sure Start children's centres closed in each of the last five years; and how many such centres were the subject of requests to him for additional resources without which the centre would be closed in each year; [138091]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1538-9W, on children's centres, whether he would expect to be informed in all cases of closures of Sure Start children's centres; and of how many such closures he has been informed since 28th March 2007. [138092]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has not received any reports of the closure of Sure Start children's centres since the programme began in 2003. I would expect local authorities to alert us if any centre were to be threatened with closure. This would enable Together for Children (the consortium appointed to support the delivery of children's centres) to broker a solution with local partners for the continuation of children's centre services in the area concerned.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* 16-year-olds, *(b)* 17-year-olds, *(c)* 18-year-olds and *(d)* 19-year-olds were not in employment, education or training in England in each of the last three years; [138490]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* 20-year-olds, *(b)* 21-year-olds, *(c)* 22-year-olds, *(d)* 23-year-olds and *(e)* 24-year-olds were not in employment, education or training in England in each of the last three years. [138491]

Bill Rammell: The following table gives the number and proportion of *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England in each of the last three years for which figures are available. Comparable figures are not available for older ages.

	End 2003	*End 2004*	*End 2005*
(a) Age 16			
Number	53,000	53,000	51,000
Proportion (percentage)	8	8	8
(b) Age 17			
Number	49,000	61,000	73,000
Proportion (percentage)	8	9	11
(c) Age 18			
Number	83,000	83,000	96,000
Proportion (percentage)	13	13	14

Record numbers of 16-year-olds are in full-time education. But, we recognise the need to take action to reduce the proportion of young people not in any form of education, employment or training, and have set ourselves a very challenging target to get the proportion down to 8 per cent. by 2010.

It is vital that all young people gain the essential skills and qualifications so that they are better prepared for getting on and success in life. Our 14-19 reforms will ensure there are suitable routes through the education and training system in place for every young person.

To keep them in learning, we need to help them tackle the other issues in their lives that might cause them to leave which we are doing through our Every Child Matters reforms.

Young People: Carers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken to ensure children who act as principal carers for family members have necessary support at school; what budget has been allocated for that purpose; what strategy is in place to monitor the educational outcomes of such children; and if he will make a statement. [138722]

Mr. Dhanda: Schools are already required to promote the education and welfare of all their pupils, and they should take pupils' particular circumstances into account. The Government are clear that if a school is concerned that one of their pupils may be a "child in need", whether as a young carer or for any other reason, they should consider communicating with the child's family and with local children's services.

The Government are committed to ensuring that the revised guidance on attendance management, "Advice and guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance: groups of pupils at particular risk", is understood by schools and publicised by the Department. This guidance includes young carers as one of the groups that is at risk of becoming disengaged from education, and it was revised in October 2006 to reflect comments from the Princess Royal Trust for Carers. Young carers will be mentioned in our revised anti-bullying guidance, Safe to Learn (due to be issued later this term), as one of the categories of pupil particularly vulnerable to bullying. We also plan to ensure that schools are aware of their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA), and to draw their attention to our resource Implementing the DDA in Schools and Early Years Settings. Once this work is complete, we plan to draw the attention of teachers, schools, and local authorities to the specific application to young carers of these resources.

There is no specific budget allocated for the support of young carers at school: head teachers and governors have discretion to allocate their resources flexibly in response to local needs. As part of their general funding, local authorities have substantial resources to fulfil their responsibilities towards children and families. They also receive the carers special grant which supports local authorities in providing breaks and services for carers.

Schools are not required to collect data on children and young people with caring responsibilities. The Government accept that not all young carers wish to discuss what they regard as sensitive family issues with their schools.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections: Reviews

Mr. Hood: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the terms of reference are for the Electoral Commission's review of the Scottish parliamentary and local government elections held on 3 May. [138120]

Peter Viggers: As I told the House during oral questions on 21 May, the Electoral Commission announced the broad scope of its review, and that it would be independently led by Mr. Ron Gould, an international specialist in electoral administration, on 14 May. The Commission announced further details, including terms of reference, on 21 May, and has informed me that a copy of this announcement has been placed in the Library. I also refer the hon. Member to the exchanges on this matter in the House on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 973-75.

Electoral Commission

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission when the Electoral Commission's five-year plan 2007-08 to 2011-12 is expected to be published. [138104]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission's Corporate Plan 2007-08 to 2011-12 (HC474), approved by the Speaker's Committee on 21 March, was laid before the House by the Committee on 9 May. Copies are available in the Vote Office. The Commission informs me that it has also published the plan on its website and that paper copies will be generally available shortly.

Damian Green: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what consideration the Speaker's Committee has given to the response of the Electoral Commission to the report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life on the work of the Commission, Cm. 7006. [138199]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission has sent to the Speaker's Committee a copy of its published response to the recommendations of the eleventh report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The Speaker's Committee is in the process of considering its own response to the report and, in doing so, will take due account of the Commission's observations.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Cattle: Registration

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of cattle in England with certificates of registration. [138130]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 21 May 2007]*: According to records on the cattle tracing system, the number of live cattle in Great Britain with certificates of registration, that is cattle born before July 1996 when passports began to be issued, is 383,000.

It has not been possible to obtain a precise figure for England only in the time available but, based on the proportion of the national herd that is resident in England, I estimate that there are just under 250,000 cattle with certificates of registration in England.

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134829]

Barry Gardiner: The figures for this information relate to core DEFRA and the following agencies: PSD, CSL, VMD, CEFAS and Animal Health.

The internal formal equal opportunities complaints procedure is on DEFRA's intranet site and all staff has access to them.

Under the above procedures in the last 12 months, six cases of bullying were investigated and one case was upheld.

Elephants

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in Africa about *(a)* elephant populations and *(b)* the ivory trade in preparation for the forthcoming Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species conference. [137678]

Barry Gardiner: I met with Marthinus Van Schalkwyk the South African Minister last June and we discussed issues of elephant management among other issues. Although visa difficulties prevented officials from Kenya, Mali, Chad, Ghana, Niger and the Democratic Republic of Congo from meeting me last month, they did meet environment officials in the UK's permanent representation in Brussels, who passed their briefing to my Department. However, last year DEFRA officials met the Honourable Onkokame Kitso Mokaila, the Botswana Minister for Environment and Tourism, on 8 November when he was in London, to hear that country's perspective. I also met Michael Wamithi (IFAW's global elephant habitat programme manager) on 28 November 2006.

We are in constant touch with non-governmental organisations and experts in elephant conservation to ensure we have a full and rounded picture of the issues involved. A DEFRA official will also be attending the African elephant dialogue meeting which will take place immediately before the CITES conference, the outcome of which will influence the EU/UK position on the proposals to be discussed at the Conference.

Environment Protection: Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions resulting in *(a)* convictions and *(b)* custodial sentences there were in each year since 1 May 1997 for offences related to (i) water resources, (ii) flood defences, (iii) fisheries, (iv) navigation, (v) process industry regulation, (vi) radioactive substances, (vii) waste and (viii) water quality as recorded in the national enforcement database. [137872]

Barry Gardiner: The following table shows the number of convictions (1) and custodial sentences (2) for environmental offences recorded in the national enforcement database in each financial year from 1999-2000 to 2005-2006.

	1999-2000		*2000-01*		*2001-02*		*2002-03*		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
	1	*2*	*1*	*2*	*1*	*2*	*1*	*2*	*1*	*2*	*1*	*2*	*1*	*2*
Fisheries	5	0	34	0	21	0	50	0	31	0	43	0	78	0
Flood Defence	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	7	0	10	0	6	0
Industry	11	0	10	0	5	0	5	0	3	0	5	0	1	0
Regulation Navigation	5	0	4	0	8	0	26	0	34	0	31	0	32	0
Radioactive Substances	4	0	5	0	8	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	1	0
Waste	354	4	418	8	466	7	502	6	426	7	422	7	514	5
Water Quality	237	0	224	0	219	0	0	0	176	0	192	1	216	0
Water Resources	10	0	21	0	12	0	0	0	8	0	16	0	10	0

National Fruit Collection

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent maintaining the National Fruit Collection in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [137423]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* Costs for maintaining the National Fruit Collection in each of the last five years are given as follows:

	£
2002-03	218,000
2003-04	218,000
2004-05	221,000
2005-06	187,000
2006-07	200,000

Strangles

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what funding his Department has provided for research into a diagnostic test for strangles; [138096]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to eradicate strangles in the UK; [138097]

(3) what research his Department has commissioned into the *(a)* detection, *(b)* prevention and *(c)* eradication of strangles; [138098]

(4) what steps his Department is taking to promote a code of practice for farmers for dealing with cases of strangles; [138099]

(5) what steps his Department is taking *(a)* to develop a blood test for strangles and *(b)* to fund research to do so; [138100]

(6) what assessment his Department has made of the risk presented to animal health by strangles. [138653]

Mr. Bradshaw: Strangles is not a notifiable disease or infection, there is no evidence that it has any significance for public health and it is not a listed disease by the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health). There are no plans to make it notifiable or for the Department to take steps to eradicate the disease. The equine industry has the responsibility to control strangles and the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) publishes a code of practice, updated annually, containing guidelines on the disease. The code is available from the HBLB, the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and the British Horse Society, and can be accessed via the DEFRA website. Both DEFRA and the industry encourage horse owners to follow the guidelines on strangles contained in the code of practice.

DEFRA is not funding research into developing a diagnostic blood test for strangles and has no plans to do so. However, the Animal Health Trust is currently working on improving diagnostic tests for equine strangles through a three-year welfare grant awarded by The Horse Trust. The Department concentrates its resources on those equine diseases which have human health, economic or international trade implications.

Sugar Beet: EC Action

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the European Commission's proposals to extend the sugar restructuring programme to individual sugar beet growers. [138427]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* The European Union's sugar restructuring scheme has, so far, failed to achieve its planned results and we agree with the European Commission that further action is necessary to make it more effective. The Commission's proposal to establish a limited grower initiative within the third year of the scheme is part of a wider package of measures designed to increase uptake. Discussions

on the proposed package are at a very early stage but we do believe that, if adopted, this element of the package would contribute to increased overall uptake.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

African Union

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is taking to strengthen its relationship with the African Union. [138240]

Mr. McCartney: The formation of the African Union (AU) in 2002 was a major development and an important break from the past with the AU committing itself to taking real responsibility for promoting peace and security; improved governance; sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. The AU's lead continental role on many issues is now established. We welcome this.

We seek every opportunity to support the AU politically and practically. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister invited AU chairperson Konare to London in May 2006 and to the G8 Gleneagles summit. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, has attended all of the AU's six-monthly summits since his appointment in 2005. Our ambassador in Addis Ababa is accredited as the British permanent representative to the AU; the embassy spends a substantive part of its time on AU matters. The UK is providing significant support to AU operations in Sudan and Somalia, as well as to help develop the AU's internal capacity and its key instruments such as the African peace and security architecture.

Ascension Island

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has for the future of those living on Ascension Island following the conclusions of her Department's economic report of 2005. [138855]

Mr. Hoon: Government policy remains to work with the Ascension Island Government towards improving the working and living environment for those on Ascension Island. As long as the main employers remain on Ascension Island, there should continue to be employment prospects for St. Helenians and others. All those working and living on Ascension Island are required by Ascension law to leave once their contracts expire. This will continue to be the case.

Ascension Island: British Nationality

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens reside on Ascension Island. [138645]

Mr. Hoon: Although there are no permanent residents on Ascension Island, the total number of British and/or British overseas territories citizens working and living there at the end of March was 904.

Commonwealth: International Conferences

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much and what proportion of the costs of the Commonwealth Heads of State meeting in Uganda in November will be met by the Government; and from which budget this contribution will be drawn. [138941]

Mr. McCartney: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 871W.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the adequacy of arrangements for the security of the Queen at the Commonwealth Heads of State meeting in Uganda in November; and if she will make a statement. [138942]

Mr. McCartney: All aspects of Her Majesty the Queen's security on visits overseas are kept under close review. We are working closely with the Ugandan authorities to ensure that all necessary measures are taken for the state visit and Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to assist in finding a solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [138238]

Mr. McCartney: In the short term, we continue to urge the Congolese government to seek peaceful and negotiated solutions to the internal problems which provoke violence. We support the continuation of the UN peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUC)'s mandate and encourage MONUC to take a robust stance against foreign and Congolese militia groups that threaten civilians.

We remain concerned by the ongoing violence in eastern DRC. We continue to press the Congolese Government to make security sector reform a priority, so a disciplined and well-trained national army is developed. This is the only long-term solution to prevent further conflict.

The DRC remains a priority for the UK. Our extensive bilateral assistance to the DRC, £75 million in the last financial year, is designed to work in support of conflict prevention, including work on security sector reform, democracy and accountability and provision of basic services to the population. I discussed this issue myself when I met William Swing, the UN Secretary-General's special representative for the DRC, on 2 March.

Economic and Monetary Union: European Constitution Treaty

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funds have been spent since 2005 by British embassies to EU countries

on *(a)* events and *(b)* organisations to support UK strategic priorities pertaining to the Government's EU policies, with particular reference to (i) the euro and (ii) the EU constitution. [138137]

Mr. Hoon: All our embassies in EU capitals are proactive in supporting the UK's strategic priorities relating to the Government's EU policies through a wide range of activity. However, the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ethiopia: Kidnapping

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government received from the Eritrean authorities in obtaining the release of the kidnappees held recently in the Afar area. [138805]

Mr. McCartney: Senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London and our ambassador in Asmara maintained active contact with the government of Eritrea during the abduction of the five officials from our embassy in Addis Ababa and family members from 2 March to 13 March.

The government of Eritrea offered to provide whatever assistance they could in obtaining the release of our staff and their family members on humanitarian grounds. After our staff and family members were freed, the Eritrean government made arrangements to transport them to Asmara where they were handed over to our ambassador.

The Ethiopians that were abducted at the same time were released on 22 April. It is not yet clear if the Eritrean authorities offered any assistance or were instrumental in facilitating their release.

The Government are grateful for the assistance received from the Eritrean government, including the personal engagement of President Isaias.

European Council

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's main priorities are for the forthcoming European Council meeting in June. [138510]

Mr. Hoon: The 21-22 June European Council will focus on institutional reform. The Government's aim, as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said on 16 April, is to secure an outcome that allows Europe to work more effectively while preserving our national interest, including our position as a key player in Europe. I set out the Government's approach to these negotiations in my written ministerial statement on 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS.

The Government want to maintain momentum on delivering the concrete results that citizens expect. So we will also want the European Council to confirm progress on EU action on important, practical challenges, such as tackling climate change, strengthening police co-operation across Europe and improving the efficiency of the single market.

Nigeria: Overseas residence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens are permanently resident and working in Nigeria. [138239]

Mr. McCartney: A total of 3,007 British citizens are registered with our high commission in Abuja, including dependants and others who are not necessarily working. We strongly advise all British citizens who intend to stay in Nigeria for three months or longer to register with the high commission but not all do so, so the exact number of British residents is likely to be higher than 3,007.

Northern Cyprus

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the campaign led by the Mayor of Famagusta in Cyprus for the full re-opening and redevelopment of Famagusta; and if she will take steps to discuss this issue with the Mayor of Famagusta. [138470]

Mr. Hoon: The Mayor of Famagusta has already shared his campaign plans with senior officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). They emphasised the importance of a UN process leading to a comprehensive and durable settlement of benefit to all Cypriots. Our high commissioner in Nicosia is also in regular contact with the Mayor. The FCO remains open to further meetings.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what initiatives to promote multilateral disarmament the Government are proposing at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee meeting in Vienna being held in May; and if she will make a statement. [138236]

Mr. McCartney: The UK statement of 30 April to the meeting of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee will be made available to the Library of the House. On multilateral disarmament, this made clear the importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and encouraged those countries that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the treaty. It reiterated UK support for a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty and called for a prompt start to negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. It also called on the US and Russia to make further progress on disarmament through their bilateral arms control agreements.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of security arrangements in the West Bank and Gaza. [138442]

Mr. McCartney: We are concerned about the security situation in Gaza. The recent intra-Palestinian violence, which started on 13 May, has left 54 Palestinians dead. We welcome the ceasefire, which was agreed on 19 May, to end this violence. However, the on-going launching of Qassam rockets from Gaza into Israel, the Israeli airstrikes in Gaza and the resulting Palestinian casualties are of serious concern. As the Minister for the Middle East my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) said on 21 May in a press conference following the Israeli raids on Gaza:

"For the sake of the people of Gaza and southern Israel, we want to see a complete halt to internal violence in Gaza and to rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel. The continuing violence is creating a situation of intolerable suffering for those living in the Gaza Strip, and taking its toll on the residents of Sderot".

We are also concerned by the movement restrictions placed upon Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs has noted that access to parts of the West Bank, such as East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley, have not improved due to a high number of checkpoints (537 as of April), roadblocks, the barrier and a complex system of permits. In Gaza, the regular closure of the Rafah crossing point and lack of access to the West Bank has had a detrimental effect on the population. We continue to raise our concerns about movement restrictions with the Israeli Government and call upon both parties to implement the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access.

Robert Mugabe

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking with her Commonwealth counterparts to ensure that President Mugabe is not invited to the Commonwealth Heads of Government or related events. [138676]

Mr. McCartney: President Mugabe withdrew Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth in 2003. We would therefore not expect him to be invited to or to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kampala and we are confident he will not be.

Sudan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the situation in Eastern Sudan. [138177]

Mr. McCartney: Following the signing of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Eastern Front (EF) on 14 October 2006, the region has been calm. We welcomed the ESPA, but are concerned that implementation has been slow. This is partly due to the EF's inability to agree nominations to political posts in the Government and National Assembly in Khartoum. We have urged them to complete this process quickly.

The east remains one of the poorest parts of Sudan. Large numbers of people live in extreme poverty and socio-economic indicators, such as infant mortality, are the worst in the country. Illiteracy and unemployment levels in the region are also high. The UK supports development and stability in Eastern Sudan as part of our contribution to implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The UK currently chairs an informal donor co-ordination group on Eastern Sudan. This group shares information and fosters joint programming among members of the international community. The Government's own support to Eastern Sudan includes pressing the Government of Sudan for the timely transfer of funds from the central budget to the states and pilot projects such as a social protection scheme implemented in the east through Oxfam.

Uganda: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the role of the media during the 2006 Ugandan elections. [138694]

Mr. McCartney: International observers monitoring the 2006 elections raised concerns that a level playing field was not established before the elections took place. One reason for this was the lack of balance in media coverage, especially on the part of the state owned media. However, there was consensus that despite some shortcomings on election day, voting was generally well administered, transparent and competitive.

Our high commission in Kampala, along with other representatives of the international community, continues to monitor the governance environment, including media freedom, in Uganda.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Ugandan authorities on the administration of future presidential and parliamentary elections. [138695]

Mr. McCartney: We have a regular dialogue with the government of Uganda on all aspects of developing multi-party democracy and engaging with the opposition, building towards the next elections. Our high commissioner in Kampala discussed these issues most recently with President Museveni on 10 May.

The Government are helping the Ugandan Parliament finalise a new strategic plan for its development and is helping to build the capacity of a number of parliamentary committees. The Government also plan to commit £5 million to a new multi-donor 'deepening democracy' programme which will include help for the implementation of the strategic plan that Parliament is now finalising.

In March our high commission in Kampala funded a visit of Ugandan opposition MPs to the UK to enable them to gain a greater understanding of how an opposition works within a parliamentary democracy. We will continue to look for further opportunities to work with the Ugandan parliament in the run up to the 2011 elections.

Zambia: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in Zambia. [138237]

Mr. McCartney: Following elections, which we believed set a strong example within the Southern African Development Community, Zambia has continued to enjoy political stability. Underpinning this is Zambia's continued strong economic performance. In their 27 December 2006 report, the International Monetary Fund forecast a solid 6 per cent. growth for 2006, with an outlook of 7 per cent. for 2007. The 2007 Budget speech contained a useful restatement of the Government's commitment to sound macroeconomic policies and fiscal discipline.

President Mwanawasa has also targeted corruption as a key Government priority. The 4 May judgment by the London High Court against former President Chiluba in a civil case brought before it on behalf of the Zambian Attorney-General was a historic event. It sends a powerful message in Zambia, but with a resonance beyond, that plundering a nation's resources will not be tolerated. We look forward to the money being returned to the Zambian people.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place a copy of the national guidance stating that accident and emergency departments should serve a catchment population of 450,000 to 500,000 people in the Library. [137312]

Andy Burnham: The Department has not issued guidance stating that accident and emergency departments should cover a given catchment population.

It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that there is appropriate provision of urgent and emergency services that are responsive to people's needs.

General Practitioners

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department has received on the support general practitioners are receiving from primary care trusts in delivering change; and if she will make a statement. [122812]

Andy Burnham: The Department and the ministerial team meet stakeholder organisations including the Improvement Foundation, NHS Alliance, National Association of Primary Care, NHS Primary Care Contracting team, British Medical Association, and Royal College of General Practitioners on a regular basis. They are key stakeholders in the implementation of practice based commissioning which relies on good relationships with and support from primary care trusts.

Midwives: Insurance

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made with plans to require independent midwives to have professional indemnity insurance; and what consultation *(a)* has taken place and *(b)* is planned with (i) midwives, (ii) other healthcare professionals and (iii) women on those plans. [136426]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The White Paper stated that the introduction of compulsory indemnity insurance of all registered health professionals will be required in time.

The introduction of compulsory professional indemnity cover for midwives will require secondary legislation. A three-month public consultation will form part of that legislative process. No specific date for this has yet been set.

The chief nursing officer has met with and written to independent midwives and is investigating alternative contractual arrangements which may resolve the issue.

NHS: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department plans to take to decrease the time-lag between the conclusion of clinical trials and subsequent licensing of orphan medicines for the treatment of serious, life threatening or chronically debilitating illnesses and their availability to patients. [131655]

Caroline Flint: Applications for marketing authorisations for designated orphan medicinal products are required to be submitted via the European centralised procedure and hence applications for national United Kingdom marketing authorisations are not possible. The time taken from submission of a Marketing Authorisation application to licence issue is therefore outside of the control of the UK and follows the timetable for European centralised applications.

However, where there is a clear clinical need there is the possibility that orphan medicinal products can be made available to patients, prior to the grant of a marketing authorisation, under a compassionate use programme authorised by the European Medicines Agency and there is the possibility for accelerated consideration of a marketing authorisation application by that agency.

Out-patients

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many outpatient appointments were missed *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each relevant NHS organisation in the most recent year for which figures are available; what proportion of the total number of out-patient appointments this figure represented for each relevant NHS organisation; and what estimate she has made of the overall cost to the NHS of such missed appointments. [137392]

Andy Burnham: The number of missed out-patient appointments in England in 2005-06 was 5,582,315 or 11 per cent. of all national health service out-patient appointments. Data for individual trusts have been placed in the Library. The Department has not estimated the cost of missed appointments. The choose and book system can be used to help reduce the number of missed appointments by giving patients greater certainty and choice over the date, time and place of their appointments.

Referral-to-Treatment Waiting Times

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1088W, on referral-to-treatment waiting times, when she plans to publish data related to admitted patients. [137365]

Andy Burnham: Publication will begin as soon as the data are of sufficient quality.

Referral-to-treatment times for admitted patients who completed that 18 week pathway in March 2007 will be published in June.

Screening: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time has been for a (i) magnetic resonance imaging, (ii) computerised tomography, (iii) non-obstetric ultrasound, (iv) barium enema, (v) DEXA scan, (vi) cardiology - echocardiography, (vii) cardiology - electrophysiology, (viii) peripheral neurophysiology, (ix) colonoscopy, (x) flexi sigmoidoscopy, (xi) cytoscopy and (xii) gastroscopy test in each month since January 2006. [123063]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Commissioner based mean and median waiting time information for diagnostic test—2006s

Weeks

Month end	*January 2006*		*February 2006*		*March 2006*		*April 2006*		*May 2006*	
Test	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	6.4	9.3	5.2	7.3	4.9	6.5	5.4	6.9	4.9	6.6
Computed Tomography	2.7	4.8	2.6	4.3	2.4	3.8	2.7	4.1	2.5	4.0
Non-obstetric ultrasound	4.3	7.3	3.8	6.2	3.8	5.8	4.1	6.0	3.8	5.8
Barium Enema	2.9	5.5	2.6	4.6	2.7	4.4	2.8	4.5	2.6	4.4
DEXA Scan	7.6	13.0	5.7	10.9	6.1	11.0	6.3	10.9	5.9	10.5
Cardiology-echocardiography	8.1	13.4	6.9	12.7	6.5	12.4	6.2	9.1	5.9	8.6
Cardiology-electrophysiology	9.8	11.1	8.2	10.6	9.7	11.7	10.4	12.0	10.8	12.2
Neurophysiology-peripheral neurophysiology	11.8	19.6	11.9	19.5	10.6	18.3	11.3	19.0	11.0	18.8
Colonoscopy	11.0	23.5	10.2	20.5	8.8	19.7	8.7	18.6	8.3	18.0
Flexi sigmoidoscopy	7.0	12.6	6.3	12.2	6.3	11.4	6.5	11.2	5.9	10.6
Cystoscopy	6.7	10.1	5.9	9.5	5.7	9.0	6.3	9.1	5.9	8.6
Gastroscopy	7.0	12.8	6.1	12.1	6.0	11.7	6.3	11.7	5.9	11.5

Weeks

Month end	*June 2006*		*July 2006*		*August 2006*		*September 2006*		*October 2006*	
Test	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*
Magnetic resonance imaging	4.4	6.1	4.5	6.0	4.9	6.3	4.5	6.1	4.3	5.7
Computed tomography	2.5	4.0	2.6	4.1	2.7	4.3	2.4	3.9	2.4	3.6
Non-obstetric ultrasound	3.5	5.3	3.6	5.3	3.9	5.5	3.4	5.1	3.4	4.9
Barium enema	2.3	3.6	2.4	3.7	2.6	3.9	2.3	3.9	2.4	3.5
DEXA scan	5.3	9.9	5.5	10.8	5.3	10.2	4.7	9.5	4.6	9.5
Cardiology-echocardiography	5.6	8.5	5.5	8.5	6.1	9.2	5.4	8.7	5.1	8.5
Cardiology-electrophysiology	10.1	11.7	9.6	11.7	10.2	11.6	9.9	11.1	9.0	10.6
Neurophysiology-peripheral neurophysiology	9.8	17.9	10.2	18.1	10.7	18.1	10.4	17.7	10.0	17.0
Colonoscopy	7.5	17.7	7.4	17.4	7.5	16.6	7.0	16.2	6.4	15.0
Flexi sigmoidoscopy	5.8	10.0	5.5	9.9	5.8	9.4	5.1	8.9	4.8	8.6
Cystoscopy	5.7	8.5	5.7	8.5	6.0	8.7	5.6	8.6	5.4	8.5
Gastroscopy	5.7	11.2	5.6	11.1	5.5	10.7	4.8	10.1	4.3	9.2

Weeks

Month end	*November 2006*		*December 2006*		*January 2007*		*February 2007*	
Test	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*
Magnetic resonance imaging	4.2	5.5	4.9	6.0	4.3	5.7	4.0	5.0

Weeks

Month end	*November 2006*		*December 2006*		*January 2007*		*February 2007*	
Test	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*
Computed tomography	2.1	3.3	2.9	4.0	2.1	3.3	2.1	2.9
Non-obstetric ultrasound	3.1	4.5	3.8	5.0	2.9	4.7	3.0	4.1
Barium enema	2.1	3.3	2.9	3.9	2.2	3.6	2.0	3.0
DEXA scan	4.4	9.4	4.8	9.4	3.7	7.1	3.7	6.3
Cardiology-echocardiography	4.7	7.1	5.2	7.8	4.7	7.0	4.1	6.3
Cardiology-electrophysiology	9.8	11.0	9.1	10.4	8.9	9.8	7.0	8.8
Neurophysiology-peripheral neurophysiology	9.0	16.7	9.8	17.6	9.7	16.8	7.2	14.9
Colonoscopy	6.4	15.8	6.8	15.9	6.4	14.6	4.9	13.6
Flexi sigmoidoscopy	4.5	9.0	5.2	9.4	4.4	9.1	4.1	9.0
Cystoscopy	5.0	8.9	5.7	8.7	5.5	8.4	4.9	7.8
Gastroscopy	4.1	9.8	4.7	9.9	3.8	9.1	3.6	8.5

Source:
Department of Health, DM01

Surgery: Private Sector

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations funded by her Department were planned to be undertaken by independent sector treatment centres in the first wave; how many operations were undertaken; and how many operations it is estimated will be undertaken within the contract period. [138724]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* It is expected that the first wave of the independent sector treatment centre programme, including the general supplementary contracts, will deliver approximately 870,000 procedures for national health service patients. The contracted case mix is indicative only and the actual delivered activity may vary. As at 31 March 2007 more than 160,000 procedures had been delivered through the programme.

York Capio Centre

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1055W, on York Capio Centre, what procedures were carried out at the Clifton NHS Treatment Centre in 2006-07; how many patients underwent each procedure; and what the average cost per case was for each procedure; [135520]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1055W, on York Capio Centre, how many procedures the Clifton NHS Treatment Centre was contracted to carry out in 2006-07; how many were carried out in that year; and how many procedures the centre is contracted to carry out in each year between 2007-08 and 2010-11. [135521]

Andy Burnham: There were 1,522 patient discharges from the Clifton national health service treatment centre in 2006-07. Information on patients discharged is not held by procedure.

Utilisation of independent sector treatment centre contracts is measured on the basis of value rather than activity, this is to allow for the variations which occur through substitution of activity between procedures of varying value. This in turn allows the schemes to better meet the requirements of local NHS commissioners. Recent changes to the casemix at the treatment centre, at the request of sponsoring primary care trusts, has meant that the total expected activity is now 8,455 procedures over the life of the contract.

As the vast majority of wave 1 independent sector treatment centres are now operational, the Department is currently reviewing the release of contractual, financial and utilisation data. A decision will be taken shortly and I will write to the hon. Member.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police command units are taking part in the current Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol campaign. [138631]

Mr. McNulty: There are 166 participating basic command units of the police participating in the current Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol campaign, in partnership with Trading Standards Officers.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when an assessment of the results of the current Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol campaign will be made available. [138632]

Mr. Coaker: The current national Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol campaign is due to end in July. The final results will be made available as soon as all the results from across the 166 participating basic command units have been collated and verified.

Antisocial Behaviour

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans he has to make membership of a gang *(a)* a factor in relation to sentencing and *(b)* an offence. [135942]

(2) To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007 to the hon. Member for Hackney, North and Stoke Newington (Ms Abbott), *Official Report*, column 1224, on knife crimes, when he will publish his plans on whether or not to make membership of a gangan aggravating factor in sentencing. [135922]

John Reid: The Sentencing Guidelines Council document "Overarching Principles: Seriousness", published in December 2004, sets out the factors affecting sentencing, and includes groups or gangs as an aggravating factor. Section 1.22 ("Factors indicating higher culpability") includes "Offenders operating in groups or gangs". We are now considering whether this is sufficient, or whether it should be extended to cover all offences where the offender is a member of a gang, irrespective of whether the offence was committed with other members of the group or gang, or whether a new offence is needed.

This issue was considered by a working group drawn from the Home Secretary's Round Table on Guns, Gangs and Knives on 18 May, which will report back to the next Round Table meeting, due to be held on 26 June.

Asylum Seekers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were *(a)* charged, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted of offences under section 35(3) and (4) of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004 in each year since its coming into force; how many had a previous conviction under this Act; how many and what percentage of those convicted thereunder received custodial sentences; how many and what percentage have been successfully deported on completion of that sentence; and how many and what percentage of those (i) charged, (ii) prosecuted and (iii) convicted of the above mentioned offences had previously been convicted of such an offence. [129970]

Mr. Byrne: The answer is as follows:

S35 (3) and (4)

	Charged/prosecuted	*Convicted*
2005	4	3
2006	14	9
2007	2	1
Total	20	13

Note:
This table provides local management information from both Border Control and Enforcement and Removals criminal investigation teams.

20 individuals have been charged/prosecuted for offences under section 35(3) and (4) of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 by Border Control and Enforcement and Removals Criminal Investigation Teams since the Act received Royal assent in July 2004.

Of the 13 persons convicted, 12 (92.3 per cent.) received custodial sentences (the other one received a suspended sentence). Of those serving a custodial sentence none have been removed so far. Of the other individuals, two have been removed so far.

Of the 20 persons charged/prosecuted and the 13 persons convicted, three persons have been previously convicted of offences under section 35(3) and (4) of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004. This represents 15 per cent. of the total number of people charged and 23 per cent. of those convicted respectively.

It should be noted that these figures are locally collated management information and may be subject to change.

Children: Abuse

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to ensure that data on offences against children are recorded by *(a)* age of victim and *(b)* offence and made available at national level. [137460]

John Reid: The police record crimes that come to their attention committed against all victims, including children (those aged under 16). Information in the Home Office police recorded crime statistics do not currently separately identify the age of offenders or victims.

Work is in progress to develop a data system that will allow such information to be produced in the future. Record level data from all forces in England and Wales will be collated in a central data hub within the Home Office. Information on individual offences will be returned, including the offence type and victim characteristics such as age. This system will be used to derive and present police recorded crime statistics nationally and sub-nationally. Statistics will be released within the annual Crime in England and Wales bulletin, as part of National Statistics. However, before that happens a full assessment of the reliability and completeness of any new data collected will have to be made.

Crime: Intellectual Property

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in implementing the recommendation of the Gowers Review that intellectual property crime should be given higher policing priority; what support he has given to police forces on intellectual property crime; and if he will make a statement. [137459]

John Reid: The Gowers Review recommended that

"The Home Office should recognise IP crime as an area for police action as a component of organised crime within the updated National Community Safety Plan."

This has been implemented. The National Community Safety Plan update, published in November last year, includes among key actions for the police service in 2007-08:

"To ensure asset recovery powers are used to the full and to have strategies against all the major threats set out in the UK Threat Assessment ...including fraud and intellectual property crime."

The Home Office plays an active role in the National IP Crime Strategy and the SOCA programme board on tackling serious criminals involved in identity fraud, IP theft and counterfeit currency. The priority given to IP crime by all Government enforcement agencies has

risen since the launch of the national IP Crime strategy in 2004, with ACPO identifying IP Crime as a spotlight crime. Government recently committed an additional £5 million for 2007-08 to accompany additional powers for Trading Standards to enforce against copyright counterfeiting and piracy.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136098]

Mr. Byrne: Instructions for PC shutdown are not centrally managed within the Home Office. Shut down policies vary, dependant on individual Business area requirements.

The user information for most Home Office IT systems require users to power off their base unit and monitors at night, but not everyone does so. The Sustainable Development Team, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Information Officer are working towards raising the profile of Sustainable Operation Targets, and how best the Home Office can meet them.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure his Department uses to ascertain support within relevant public bodies and Government Departments for proposed legislation. [135853]

John Reid: Each non-departmental public body or executive agency for which we are responsible has a "sponsor" unit within the Home Office. Such units would normally liaise routinely and regularly with the relevant body as part of the normal policy development process which leads to legislation. As part of the normal function of Government, we obtain collective ministerial agreement on significant proposals or those which affect other Departments. Other Departments would respond on behalf of those bodies for which they are responsible, seeking their views directly where appropriate.

Where time, resources and the parliamentary process permits, we will consult on legislation in draft and undertake full public consultations to obtain a wider range of views.

Departments: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total sum of bonuses paid to civil servants in his Department was in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [121569]

Mr. Byrne: Where it is available, the information requested is recorded in the following table, covering the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Within the Home Office and its Agencies there are separate arrangements for awarding bonuses. Staff may receive annual, appraisal-related awards based on their exceptional contribution throughout the year, or special bonuses for exceptional, specific work. Senior civil servants can be awarded bonuses as set out in the senior salaries review body report number 62.

	Amount paid (£)	*Number paid*	*Total staff (headcount)*
2004-05	3,459,397	4,710	24,081
2005 -06	3,612,916	5,014	25,343

Notes: 1. The data for appraisal-related bonus payments are included only for Home Office HQ and Border and Immigration Agency (BIA). The data for the public sector Prison Service are excluded as they can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Identity and Passport Agency (IPS) does not run an appraisal-related bonus scheme.

2. Data for special bonus payments are included only for the Senior Civil Service (for the whole Department and its Agencies) and IPS for 2004-05 and 2005-06 for certain bonuses where information is available.

3. Data recorded for performance appraisal payments relate to the previous reporting year and not the financial year in which the bonuses themselves were paid.

4. Staffing data are for those in Home Office HQ and BIA and all senior civil servants in the Department and its Agencies. For 2004-05 and 2005-06 IPS staff are included.

Departments: Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the reports produced by consultants to his Department in each of the last five years. [136231]

John Reid: There is no central record of reports produced by consultants for the Department. To examine files for all individual pieces of consultancy dating back to 2002 would incur a disproportionate cost. Requirements for consultants are subject to value for money reviews at the point of purchase.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [134992]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office is committed to the sustainable operations in Government target to purchase at least 10 per cent. of its energy from renewable sources by 31 March 2008. The amount of renewable energy the Home Office purchased in 2005-06 was 65,502,271 kWh all of which was electricity. This represents 17 per cent. of the total energy purchased, which exceeds the target.

Departments: Speeches

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his speech delivered in Venice on Saturday 12 May to Ministers representing the G6 nations of the EU represents Government policy; and if he will place in the Library a full text of the speech. [138001]

John Reid *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* The G6 meeting is a regular informal gathering of the Homeland Ministers of the six largest European countries. During the G6 meeting of the 11 and 12 May, I did not give any formal speeches so there is no text of a speech. I did, however, make a number of

interventions during the summit on a range of issues. All of those interventions were entirely consistent with Government policy.

Drugs: Children

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* imprisoned for drugs offences since 2005. [137022]

John Reid: There were 14,500 persons aged 17 and under arrested for notifiable drug offences in England and Wales in 2004-05, the latest year for which data have been published (HOSB 21/05).

Latest available prosecutions data relate to persons aged under 17 cautioned or dealt with at court for all drug offences in England and Wales during 2004 (HOSB 23/05).

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, police forces and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Persons aged under 17 dealt with for principal drug offences[1] by action taken: England and Wales 2004

Action taken	*Number of persons*
Dealt with at court	
Found guilty	3,180
Of which:	
Immediate custody	86
Suspended sentence	—
Non-custodial	3,094
Found not guilty	402
Total dealt with at court	3,582
Cautioned	5,797
Other[2]	10
Total	9,389

[1] In the case of persons charged with two or more drug offences, the principal drug offence is the one for which attracted the most severe penalty.
[2] Includes informal warnings and no further action.

Identity Cards

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will commission a successor report to the KPMG Outline Business Case following recent changes to the details of the proposed Identity Cards Scheme. [135843]

John Reid: KPMG were originally commissioned to review the outline business case put forward by the Home Office.

The business cases related to the National Identity Scheme have also been scrutinised by Her Majesty's Treasury and are subject to the Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review Process.

There are no plans to commission any further such reports but this may be considered in the future.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Immigration and Nationality Directorate enforcement officials keep a record of the *(a)* confirmed and *(b)* unconfirmed illegal individuals dealt with while carrying out (i) raids and (ii) searches. [135838]

John Reid: The Border and Immigration Agency do keep records of illegal migrants encountered during operational visits and searches.

Officers undertake intelligence led operational visits and searches to detain and remove persons who no longer have the right to remain in the UK and do so in line with operational policy and guidance, which is available to view at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/policyinstructions/oem

Immigrants: EC Enlargement

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of A8 accession country immigrants working in the UK's social care sector. [135913]

John Reid: Information taken from registration of A8 nationals under the worker registration scheme shows that there were almost 6,200 persons working as care assistants and home carers and 300 as social workers for the calendar year 2006, as published in Annex A of the Accession Monitoring Report on 27 February 2007 at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

The sectors and occupations used in the Worker Registration Scheme do not conform to the ONS standard industrial and occupational classifications.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Immigration

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have left the UK following removal of their support under section 9 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004. [135836]

John Reid: Information on the number of voluntary and enforced returns will be included in the section 9 pilot evaluation report when it is published.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have had their asylum support removed as a result of section 9 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004. [135837]

John Reid: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) on 14 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1311W.

Updated information on the number of families who had support withdrawn under the section 9 provision will be included in the section 9 pilot evaluation report when it is published.

IND

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate have been investigated for impropriety since 31 July 2006. [112656]

Mr. Byrne: In recording data on investigations, we do not have a specific category called "impropriety". The number of investigations commissioned within the Border and Immigration Agency investigated or under investigation for potential misconduct between 1 August 2006 and 30 April 2007 is 322.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Warley of 12 March on Mrs. Nagina Bi of Smethwick. [137972]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 18 May 2007.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Taunton of 19 February on the location of passport interview centres. [138432]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* Bernard Herdan, executive director of service delivery for the Identity and Passport Service, replied on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid) to the hon. Member for Taunton's letter on 7 March 2007. A copy of Mr. Herdan's letter is as follows:

Letter from Bernard Herdan, dated 7 March 2007:

Thank you for your letter of 19 February to the Rt Hon John Reid MP. It has been passed to me to reply as Executive Director, Service Planning and Delivery at the Identity and Passport Service (IPS).

The network of 69 interview offices has been designed to strike a balance between keeping costs (and therefore fees) as low as possible while making journeys to interviews as short as possible. The proposed locations have been verified by a consultancy and take into account consultations with authorities and agencies responsible for sparsely populated areas. I have enclosed a document "Passport Office Authentication by Interview Network", which will give you more information on how we decided the locations of the interview offices. The interview office network is intended to provide an office within an hour's travelling time for over 95% of the UK population. In remote, sparsely populated areas where it is not cost-effective to set up an interview office, we are putting in place videoconferencing facilities to conduct the interview to avoid people having to make long journeys. This will affect a small number of applicants who live more than an hour's journey from an interview office, estimated to be less than 4,000 per year in 25 areas.

When assessing interview office locations and travelling times to those offices we considered both private and public transport and used all available local and national transport and census data on population movements and modes of travel.

Each location has been selected as part of a mutually supporting network; no individual location can be changed without affecting the whole network.

I hope this has clarified the situation.

Migrant Workers: Children

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* migrant workers and *(b)* school age children of migrant workers in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland; and how many such children are registered in schools in (A) Wales, (B) England, (C) Scotland and (D) Northern Ireland, broken down by country of origin. [128690]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* The Home Office has not made estimates of any of the figures requested.

Figures from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), estimate that there were 3.075 million people who were born overseas in employment in the UK in April-June 2006. A breakdown on a comparable basis for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is not available from ONS. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Comparable estimates of the number of school age children of people who were born overseas and were in employment in the UK are not available.

Information on the number of children of migrant workers registered in schools is a matter for the various Education Ministers. They have informed me that this information is not collated centrally.

National Identity Register

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what will happen to the information registered on the National Identity Register of individuals who do not re-register from the scheme. [135833]

John Reid: Information will be retained on the National Identity Register, in accordance with section 3.1 of the Identity Cards Act 2006,

"for as long as it is consistent with the statutory purposes for it to be recorded in the Register".

Net Migration

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007 to the hon. Member for City of York, *Official Report*, column 1226, on net migration, what the exact number of A8 accession country immigrants working in the NHS is; and if he will break this number down by *(a)* job and *(b)* nationality. [135923]

John Reid: Information taken from registration of A8 nationals under the worker registration scheme shows that there were 9,790 registrations for the health and medical sector for the calendar year 2006. We are unable to confirm how many of this number were working in the NHS.

The jobs that the A8 workers, including those in the health and medical sector were doing are listed in Annex A of the accession monitoring report published on 27 February 2007 at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report.

The nationality of those registering is provided in the following table.

Accession state worker registration scheme— initial approvals 2006 health and medical sector

	Number
Czech Rep	558
Estonia	87
Hungary	469
Latvia	147
Lithuania	515
Poland	7,036
Slovakia	965
Slovenia	14
Total	9,790

Note:
The figures have not been rounded to the nearest five as in the published accession monitoring report.

The sectors and occupations used in the worker registration scheme do not conform to the ONS standard industrial and occupational classifications.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007 to the hon. Member for City of York (Hugh Bayley), *Official Report*, column 1226, on net migration, what provisions there are in the points based system to allow for fast-track work permits. [135924]

John Reid: Under the new points based system, employers on our sponsorship register will issue Certificates of Sponsorship to prospective employees who will apply for leave to enter at ports abroad or leave to remain if extending their stay in country.

Passports

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria were used when finalising the list of approved passport photo countersignatories. [137553]

John Reid: A countersignatory for a passport application must be a professional person, or a person of standing in the community, who holds a current British or Irish passport. There is no exhaustive list of approved countersignatories; the passport application form and the Identity and Passport Service website give examples of the types of occupations which would be considered acceptable but there is no intention to preclude other people who meet the criteria.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of passport applications submitted using the Check and Send service were refused in the last 12 months; on what grounds applications may be refused; and how many applications were refused on each of those grounds over that period. [138279]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* Passports are issued at the discretion of the Secretary of State under the Royal prerogative. In practice, passports are issued when the Secretary of State is satisfied as to the identity and British nationality of applicants, in accordance with legislation, except in certain well defined categories, of which Parliament has been informed from time to time. These are:

(i) a minor whose journey was known to be contrary to a court order, to the wishes of a parent or other person or authority in whose favour a residence or care order had been made or who had been awarded custody; or care and control, or to the provisions of section 25(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 as amended by section 42 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, or section 56 of the Adoption Act 1976, as amended by the Children Act 1989;

(ii) a person for whose arrest a warrant had been issued in the United Kingdom, or a person who was wanted by the United Kingdom police on suspicion of a serious crime;

(iii) in very rare cases, a person whose past or proposed activities were so demonstrably undesirable that the grant or continued enjoyment of passport facilities would be contrary to the public interest;

(iv) a person repatriated from abroad at public expense until the debt has been repaid.

In addition, passports would not be issued to those who were currently the subject of Football Banning Orders or Travel Restriction Orders.

The statistics available show only the breakdown between those applications which failed on nationality grounds and those rejected for other reasons. In the 2006 calendar year 0.38 per cent. of the 2,846,324 applications received through the Check and Send service were rejected. The numbers in each category were:

	Number
Nationality grounds	2,634
Other reasons	8,266

Passports: Children

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of new child passport applications were refused in the last 12 months; on what grounds applications may be refused; and how many applications over that period were refused on each of those grounds. [138278]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* Passport applications may be refused if the applicant does not hold British nationality, has not satisfactorily established their identity or falls into one of certain well defined categories, of which Parliament has been informed from time to time. The only one of these categories which is relevant to new child passport applications is as follows:

a minor whose journey was known to be contrary to a court order, to the wishes of a parent or other person or authority in whose favour a residence or care order had been made or who had been awarded custody; or care and control, or to the provisions of section 25(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 as amended by section 42 of the Children and Young

Persons Act 1963, or section 56 of the Adoption Act 1976, as amended by the Children Act 1989.

The statistics available show only the breakdown between those applications which failed on nationality grounds and those rejected for other reasons. In the 2006 calendar year 1.2 per cent. of the 948,201 first applications for children were rejected. The numbers in each category were:

	Number
Nationality grounds	4,108
Other reasons	7,269

Passports: Elderly

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Government will make it its policy to give free passports to those who have reached the age of 75 years. [138226]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* Free passports are available to people born on or before 2 September 1929. This concession, which was announced on 19 May 2004, was introduced in recognition of the sacrifices made by adults during the second world war and it has previously been made clear that it would not be extended.

Police: East Midlands

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will assess the merits of establishing a regional ICT network for East Midlands police authorities. [138305]

Mr. McNulty: The five East Midlands police forces have indicated that they intend to submit a bid for funding which may include enhancement to support IT interoperability and collaborative working as part of the protective services demonstrator site programme which the Home Office will be supporting. Their bid will be evaluated alongside bids from other police forces.

Police: Equal Opportunities

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 479W, on police equal opportunities, when he expects the Women in Policing Steering Group to report on whether further targets should be set for the recruitment, retention and progression of female police officers. [138477]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The Women in Policing Steering Group will consider whether further targets should be set for the recruitment, retention and progression of female police officers at their next meeting on 28 June 2007.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on police rules of engagement with firearms. [138803]

Mr. McNulty: There have been no recent discussions. Operational tactics when using firearms are a matter for the police and the use of firearms is governed by ACPO guidelines. Once authorised to use firearms, it is for the individual officer to ensure they act within the law. The Criminal Law Act 1967 provides that the police may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to effect an arrest or to prevent crime.

Police: Standards

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings he has held with the Police Federation on targets for frontline police officers since 1 January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [138285]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* I have regular meetings with the Police Federation, at which we discuss a range of issues, including performance targets and other matters affecting frontline officers.

Police: Training

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police and *(b)* other personnel were trained in surveillance through the National Specialist Law Enforcement Centre in each of the last 10 years. [137456]

John Reid: The National Specialist Law Enforcement Centre was established in 2001. Provision of surveillance training includes mobile surveillance, foot surveillance and static observation posts. The figures in the following table covering the period 1997 to 2001 are based on a fixed training programme delivered by the National Police Training Specialist Crime Centre and agreed with the Regional Crime Squad.

Financial year	*Police*[1]	*Other Personnel*[2]
1997-98	168	0
1998-99	168	0
1999-2000	258	0
2000-01	258	0
2001-02	323	0
2002-03	605	0
2003-04	805	0
2004-05	655	18
2005-06	725	22
2006-07	504	221

[1] Police personnel include RAF Police, British Transport Police, Regional Crime Squad as well as the territorial police forces of England and Wales.

[2] "Other Personnel" in years 2004-06 are Immigration and Nationality Directorate staff involved in Operation Reflex working in partnership with the National Crime Squad. Those for 2006-07 are for Serious Organised Crime Agency staff, previously categorised as police personnel.

Police: West Midlands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in Government funding for West Midlands Police was over the last three years. [138778]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Percentage change in total Government grants for West Midlands Police, 2005-06 to 2007-08

	Total Government grants[2, 3] *(£ million)*	*Annual change in total grants (percentage)*
2005-06	468.85	5.9
2005-06[1]	468.02	—
2006-07	491.77	5.1
2007-08	516.83	5.1

[1] Adjusted for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006/07.
[2] Total Government grant comprises: Home Office police grant, Department for Communities and Local Government revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates; special formula grant; specific grants: crime fighting fund, basic command unit funding, community support officer funding, neighbourhood policing fund and capital grant.
[3] The minimum increase in general grant for all police authorities was 3.75 per cent. in 2005-06. The increase for West Midlands Police Authority was 6.81 per cent. In 2006-07 and 2007-08 there was a broadly flat rate increase for all police authorities of 3.1 per cent. and 3.6 per cent. respectively. West Midlands received increases of 3.4 per cent. and 3.8 per cent. respectively.

Terrorism: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000 were from (i) East Sussex and (ii) Eastbourne in each of the last five years. [136023]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not collate this information in the form requested.

Workers Registration Scheme

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many workers were registered under the Workers Registration Scheme in *(a)* Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Lincolnshire in each of the last five years. [136237]

Mr. Byrne: Regional information on those workers who came to work in the UK from the eight Eastern European countries which acceded to the EU on 1 May 2004 is published in the Accession Monitoring report. The requirement for workers from these countries to register on the Worker Registration Scheme has applied from 1 May 2004 only.

Information about the number of workers in the areas specifically requested is not available in the report. However, the number of workers in the Anglia, Midlands and Central regions who have registered from 1 May 2004 to 31 December 2006 is published in table 8 of the Accession Monitoring Report, on the following link:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

The next Accession Monitoring Report will be published on the 22 May 2007.

Written Questions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer Questions *(a)* 131379, *(b)* 131380 and *(c)* 131381, on British citizenship, tabled by the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on 28 March 2007. [134386]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* I replied to my right hon. Friend on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 543W.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints Serco have received on the treatment of women detainees at Yarl's Wood, broken down by subject of complaint. [137996]

Mr. Byrne: Since the commencement of the new Serco contract to operate Yarl's Wood there have been nine official complaints made to Serco by detainees. Three have been related to healthcare, two concerned the food, and four regarding single issues; the issue of shampoo and washing tablets, the escort process, the reception process and one complaint against staff, which was related to a detainee feeling unsupported by staff.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the management contract with Serco in respect of Yarl's Wood stipulates in relation to the treatment of women detainees; and what guidance he has issued to Serco on *(a)* locked room detention, *(b)* access to or possession of mobile phones and *(c)* access to international news via satellite television. [137999]

Mr. Byrne: The contract that exists between the Home Office and Serco outlines the requirement for a full, varied and active regime for the detainees held at Yarl's Wood IRC. Detainees are required to be in their rooms for the 23:15 roll count, but are free to move around their accommodation units after this time. Detainees are allowed to be in possession of mobile phones and there are no plans to restrict their use. There is no restriction to satellite news; there was a fault with the system early in May but this has been resolved.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking in response to the protest by female detainees at Yarl's Wood removal centre; and if he will make a statement. [138004]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* There have been unfounded rumours that the quality of care provided to detainees at Yarl's Wood will be reduced in the wake of the operating contract transfer from GSL to Serco. The new contract director Victoria Jones spoke to the detainees in Yarl's Wood on two occasions on 4 and 5 May, and has also written to the detainees about their concerns. The centre has remained mainly calm. Complaints and concerns are addressed as they arise.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ascension Island: Overseas Aid

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of UK aid was allocated to Ascension Island in 2006. [138854]

Mr. Thomas: There is no aid programme to Ascension Island. It is, however, eligible to apply for funds from the joint DFID/Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funded Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). In 2006-07 Ascension had two OTEP projects:

Environmental Information System with a total allocation of £98,810 over two years; and

Improving Access to Green Mountain National Park with a total allocation £29,500 over one year.

Burundi: Education

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the government of Burundi on educational development. [138589]

Hilary Benn: I recently announced financial support for education in post-conflict states, including £6 million to Burundi over three years.

I discussed our programme in Burundi, which has a strong focus on education, with the 1st Vice-President when he was in London last month. The Burundi Minister of Education and Culture also called on DFID during his visit to the UK in March, to explain the challenges facing the education sector in Burundi and how we might help them.

We recognise the need to help the government provide access to quality education and a peace dividend for people who suffered over 12 years of civil war, which is why we provided support to Burundi to help implement the policy of free primary education, announced at the President's inauguration in August 2005. This included building and rehabilitating schools, training teachers and providing textbooks, which helped increase enrolment by around 40,000. Since then DFID has worked closely with the government of Burundi and a range of other partners on the development of a sector plan for educational development, and on financing arrangements. We are also working with the government to help them gain endorsement of their sector plan and entry to the Education-For-All fast track initiative.

China: Overseas Aid

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid has been allocated to China in 2007-08; what projects are being funded by that aid; and what factors were taken into account when determining whether it was appropriate to allocate UK aid to China. [138380]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's bilateral programme in China in 2007-08 will be £33.4 million. We provide assistance in the areas of basic education, combating HIV, AIDS and tuberculosis, health system reform and promoting the integration of water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion. This bilateral programme is due to end by 2010-11. The rationale for our bilateral programme is set out in the DFID Country Assistance Plan for 2006-11, a copy of which is available from the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/default.asp.

The main justification is the large numbers of poor people who still live on less than $2 per day; and the good use that the Chinese make of international best practice in planning and implementing their own large domestic programmes, which deliver health and basic education services to poor people in China.

Developing Countries: Sanitation

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* budget and *(b)* plans he has for the future support of water and sanitation projects in developing countries. [138543]

Hilary Benn: The UK has agreed that half of our direct bilateral aid to poor countries should be spent on basic services, including water, and we will double our total support to water and sanitation in Africa to £95 million a year by 2007-08 and more than double it again to £200 million a year by 2010-11.

In 2005-06 we committed £78 million to Sub-Saharan Africa, which is home to some of the world's poorest people and where the millennium development goals (MDG) for water and sanitation are most off-track.

Current bilateral commitments include a planned investment of £100 million in Ethiopia and around £20 million a year in Sudan. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, we have more than doubled our commitments on water and sanitation from £4 million a year in 2005-06 to £10 million a year by 2007-08.

Our major commitments in Asia include £5.5 million to help deliver water and sanitation to £6 million slum dwellers in Indian cities. In Bangladesh, we support UNICEF's sanitation, environmental health and water programme, which helps 30 million people and 7,500 schools. We also provide nearly £16 million to the charity WaterAid's sanitation and environmental health programme. This has already reached over 1 million of some of Bangladesh's poorest people—and intends to reach a further 3 million over five years.

But we cannot tackle this alone. That is why I have called for global action on water and sanitation.

At the international level we are calling for two main things:

one annual report to monitor progress towards achieving the MDG water and sanitation targets. This should set out levels of access to safe water and adequate sanitation, highlighting where progress is lagging behind.

one high-level global annual meeting to review what is being done, highlight progress and agree on action.

Within each country there should be:

One national water and sanitation plan—setting out current levels of access and identifying the investment needed.

One water and sanitation co-ordinating group—this should bring together government, civil society and donors to identify the blockages and agree who will do what.

Palestinians: Economic Situation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with international colleagues on the economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza. [138445]

Hilary Benn: I regularly discuss the economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza with counterparts

from across the international community, and I recently met with the Palestinian Finance Minister, Salaam Fayyad.

I remain concerned about the economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). Average incomes are almost 40 per cent. below their 1999 levels and poverty is rising. The Palestinian Authority faces a massive funding shortfall, in large part due to the withholding of customs revenues by Israel. Restrictions on movement are a severe constraint on business.

DFID is responding with £15 million in contributions through the Temporary International Mechanism, which supports basic services and pays allowances to public sector employees and the poorest Palestinians. We are also developing support to stimulate investment and business innovation in the OPTs.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the humanitarian needs of those who have fled Mogadishu since March 2007. [138568]

Hilary Benn: The security situation in Mogadishu and the surrounding area makes it difficult to assess the humanitarian situation precisely, and DFID has not made any independent assessment.

However, there is wide consensus that over 350,000 people were displaced by fighting in Mogadishu at the end of March and beginning of April. Many estimates, including those of the United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross, put the number higher. In addition the UN estimates that 30 to 40 per cent. of the population were unable to leave the city and were displaced within Mogadishu. The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) has accused the UN and the international relief agencies of overestimating the numbers, and asserts that only 30,000-40,000 were displaced.

The feedback from those relief agencies currently operating in Mogadishu is that humanitarian needs are substantial in all sectors.

Since January 2006 the UK has been the second largest donor of humanitarian relief to Somalia, including $7.4 million since January 2007, of which a substantial amount is being used to help those displaced by the fighting. We stand ready to provide more assistance where we can be sure this will make a difference to the poorest and most vulnerable Somalis.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the role of the new tuberculosis vaccine development in the *(a)* progress and *(b)* likely outcomes of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006 to 2015. [138538]

Mr. Thomas: The Global Plan to Stop TB estimates that a new vaccine will be launched between 2014 and 2018, so will not have a major role on the progress and outcomes of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-15. Simulations conducted as part of the Global Plan suggest that once introduced a new vaccine will reduce new cases of tuberculosis by 20 per cent. in the first 10 years and by 40 per cent. by 2050.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department made an estimate of the funding *(a)* required and *(b)* available to the programme for the research and development of a new tuberculosis vaccine. [138539]

Mr. Thomas: The Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-15 estimates that $3.6 billion will be required to research and develop a new tuberculosis vaccine and that there is a funding gap of $1.5 billion.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has considered the merits of providing research and development finance for the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation and its programme of work. [138540]

Mr. Thomas: During 2007 DFID will be holding a consultation on a new strategy for research. As part of this consultation DFID will consider the merits of research and development for drugs and vaccines for neglected tropical diseases, including tuberculosis. DFID is already supporting the development of new drugs for tuberculosis, through the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation on its plans for the development and promotion of a new tuberculosis vaccine in developing countries. [138541]

Mr. Thomas: Officials in DFID have met staff from the Aeras Global TB vaccine foundation several times in the last year and are kept up to date with its plans for the development and promotion of new tuberculosis vaccines in developing countries.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the funding requirements of the future roll out of a global tuberculosis vaccination programme. [138542]

Mr. Thomas: More work is required by the Stop TB Partnership to assess the funding requirements for the future roll out of a global tuberculosis vaccination programme. Some rough estimates suggest that about $340 billion per year will be required, based upon information from a number of sources.

JUSTICE

Electoral Register

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what estimate she has made of *(a)* the number of people who are not on their local Electoral Register but would be eligible to vote were they on the Electoral Register, *(b)* the number of people who are on a local Electoral Register but should not be, *(c)* the number of people who appear on more than one Electoral

Register and *(d)* the number of people who appear more than once in a single Electoral Register. [137630]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 May 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what estimate has been made of (a) the total number of people who are not on their local electoral register but are eligible to vote, (b) the total number of people who are on the local electoral register but should not be, (c) the total number of people who appear on more than one electoral register, and (d) the total number of people who appear more than once in a single electoral register. (137630)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not make any regular estimates of these figures.

On occasion, the ONS has been commissioned to estimate the degree of non-registration of the eligible population. The Electoral Commission study "Understanding electoral registration" http://www.electoralcommission.org./templates/search/document.cfm/13545 reported the most recent estimate. The ONS's best estimate for non-registration among the eligible household population in England and Wales at 15 October 2000 lies between 8% and 9%. This estimate equates to approximately 3.5 million people.

Local Child Curfew Schemes: Sandwell

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many child curfew orders were issued in Sandwell metropolitan borough council area in each of the last three years. [138777]

Bridget Prentice: Figures setting out the number of young people sentenced to curfew orders in the area covered by the Sandwell youth offending team in each of the last three years are set out in the following table.

Sandwell youth offending team—curfew orders

	Number
2004	36
2005	41
2006	28

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ministerial Responsibilities

8. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what responsibilities he has following the restoration of devolved government. [137963]

Mr. Peter Hain: I still have overall responsibility for maintaining political stability in Northern Ireland, and for a number of excepted and reserved matters, notably elections, constitutional rights and policing and justice functions.

Criminal Justice System

13. **Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what steps he plans to take to reduce crime in Northern Ireland under the continuing modernisation and review of the criminal justice system. [137968]

Maria Eagle: Overall levels of recorded crime in Northern Ireland fell by 1.7 per cent. in 2006-07 and are down 15 per cent. on 2002-03 levels.

But we need to keep up our efforts. The reforms in policing and criminal justice have provided us with modern and effective institutions. Better partnership working has seen dramatic improvements in reducing domestic burglaries and vehicle crime. A new community safety strategy will be published this year. We are working on a strategy to reduce re-offending.

We look forward to discussing these issues in detail with elected representatives in Northern Ireland, who I hope will take over responsibility for them as soon as possible, in line with the St Andrews agreement.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of state assets previously administered by his Department are now under the remit of the Northern Irish Assembly; what their capital value is; and if he will make a statement. [138136]

Mr. Hain: None of the Northern Ireland Office's assets, excluding its agencies and NDPBs, are now under the remit of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135737]

Mr. Hain: Within the Northern Ireland Office, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies, I have responsibility for the following Government websites:

Website	*Number of visitors*	*Cost of establishing site (£)*	*Cost of maintaining site (£)*
www.cicapni.org	1,370 visitors since May 2004	2,072.70	300.00 since January 2004
www.niccommissioners.org	7,339 per year	6,869.00	221.00 per annum
www.Rscgfoundation.org	329,025 (average per day -291)	1,057.50	235. 00 per annum (approx)
www.nipolicefund.org	On average 784 per month	1,556.00	575.00 per annum

Website	Number of visitors	Cost of establishing site (£)	Cost of maintaining site (£)
www.cjini.org	46,103 since March. 2005	6,895.00	2,425.33 since March. 2005
www.octf.gov.uk	63,356 (January . 2005 to April 2007)	27,150.60	2,605.40 since Sept. 2002
www.independentmonitoringcommission.org	24,317 since 2004	4,756.30	2,075.43 since 2004
www.paradescommission.org	n/a	16,000.00	2,000.00 per annum
www.youthjusticeagencyni.gov.uk	32,319 since 2005 (figures not available for 2004)	11,338.75 for initial website. 10, 824.46 for enhancements	2,185.50 per annum
www. youthconferenceserviceni. gov.uk	69,052 since 2004	7,637.50 for initial website. 193.88 for enhancements	nil
www.niprisonservice. gov.uk	75,000 since November 2005 to date	21,000.00	11,205.60 since 2002
www.reportinghate.org	1,112 between June 2006 and December 2006	5,430.00	47.00 per annum
www.communitysafetyunitni.gov.uk	56,930 between August 2002 and May 2007	3,760.00	Nil
www.howsecureismyhome.com	1,121 between September 06 and April 07	2,145.00	Nil
www.cjini.gov.uk	41,711 between June 2005 and April 2007	Not known	4,386.00-2005-06 3,646.2000 -2006-07
www. causeway.gOv.uk	7,278 since January 2003	1,487.13	4,614.00 since January 2003
www.ppsni.gov.uk	25,064 since June 2005	6,545.00	4,803. 00 per annum
www.fsni.gov.uk	397,683	7,740.00	Nil
www. Compensationni.gov.uk	31,600 since May 2002	27,398.00	Nil
www.imb-ni.org.uk	n/a	10,516.25	Nil
www .policeombudsman. org	341,954 since 2004	7,720.00	1,494.00 per annum
www.sentencereview.org.uk	n/a	n/a	3,713.00 since 2002
www.hrcni.org.uk	n/a	n/a	2,632.00 since 2002
www .niprisonerombudsman. gov.uk	n/a	1,566.25	1,500.00 per annum
www.oversightcommissioner.org	3, 000 per month (average)	n/a	4,717.53 since 2003
www.psni.police.uk	11,408,813 between 30 April 2006 and 30 April 2007	46,000.00	30,000.00 per annum
www.districtpolicing.com	115,000 between January and July 2006	140,000.00	3 0,000.00 per annum
www.nipolicingboard.org.uk relates to original website March 2002 to April 2007	161,000 from June 2004 to April 2007	20,000.00	2,500.00 per annum
relates to revised website which went live on 27 April 2007	[1]—	99,000.00	5,500.00 per annum
www.nio.gov.uk	611,283 since January. 2004 to December. 2006	49,290.00	613,198.00 since January. 2004

n/a = not available [1] Not available—too early.

Driving Under Influence: Convictions

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions there were in Northern Ireland for the offence of drink driving in each year since 2001; and how many resulted in *(a)* a prison sentence, *(b)* mandatory disqualification from driving and *(c)* the maximum fine. [138819]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives the total number of convictions for drink driving offences and the method of disposal.

It is not possible to determine the total number who were disqualified from driving due to drink driving offences, as this information is not broken down separately. The figures provided in the table, therefore, relate to those sentenced to a fine and/or disqualification.

Data cover the calendar years 2001 to 2005 and during this period, the maximum fine was not imposed.

Number of convictions for drink driving offences, the number sentenced to immediate custody, the number sentenced to a fine and/or disqualification and number given other disposals 2001-05[1,2,3]

	Total number convicted	Number sentenced to immediate custody	Number sentenced to fine and/or disqualification	Number of other disposals
2001	1,890	20	1,808	62
2002	2,037	10	1,949	78
2003	2,278	24	2,159	95
2004	2,438	12	2,331	95
2005	2,536	21	2,394	121

[1] Includes offences of 'driving with excess alcohol in breath', 'attempting to drive with excess alcohol in breath', 'in charge with excess alcohol in breath', 'driving with excess alcohol in blood', 'attempting to drive with excess alcohol in blood', 'in charge with excess alcohol in blood', 'driving with excess alcohol in urine', 'in charge with excess alcohol in urine', 'driving when unfit through drink or drugs', 'attempting to drive when unfit through drink or drugs', 'in charge when unfit through drink or drugs'. For the three latter offences which refer to drink or drugs it is not possible to determine from the dataset whether the offender was under the influence of drink or drugs.

[2] Other disposals include suspended custody, supervision in the community and conditional discharge.

[3] Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Forensic Science

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures he has considered with a view to supporting and improving the operation of forensic science services in Northern Ireland. [137969]

Maria Eagle: Forensic science services in Northern Ireland are provided by Forensic Science Northern Ireland (FSNI)—an agency of the NIO delivering independent expert forensic analysis and advice to the criminal justice system. It is held to account for its operation and performance by a ministerial advisory board which reports directly to me. A major modernisation programme, initiated in 2005, has resulted in considerable changes and improvements to the agency's operations. In addition work has been commissioned to reassess the accommodation needs of the agency, with a view to facilitating the further modernisation and development of its services.

Political Parties: Finance

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to consult on the regulations to be adopted under the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 on donations by Irish citizens to political parties in Northern Ireland. [132871]

Maria Eagle: The Government intend to lay the draft Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (Northern Ireland Political Parties) Order 2007 before both Houses of Parliament as soon as practicable. The Electoral Commission have been consulted throughout the process of the drafting of the Order. The main political parties in Northern Ireland will be given advance sight of the draft Order before it is laid.

A formal consultation exercise was carried out in 2005 on the future of donations to political parties in Northern Ireland. This gave rise to the donations provisions contained in Part 3 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006. This, along with the Political Parties Elections and Referendum Act 2000, is the parent Act which contains the enabling power under which the 2007 Order will be made.

Prisons: Drugs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many mandatory drug tests were carried out in each prison establishment in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; and in how many of those tests results were *(a)* positive, *(b)* negative and *(c)* inconclusive for the presence of banned substances. [136823]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service does not have a full programme of mandatory drug testing, although it is planned to change prison rules to enable this. However, there is currently extensive drug testing of prisoners on a voluntary basis, particularly as part of the progressive regime and earned privileges scheme, and also in relation to home leaves.

Results of voluntary drug tests are only available for the last five years and are set out in the following table. Tests are diagnosed either positive or negative.

	Number of tests	*Number of positive*	*Number of negative*
2002			
Maghaberry	853	84	633
Magilligan	726	81	623
Hydebank	1,280	124	1,156
2003			
Maghaberry	310	64	186
Magilligan	690	103	166
Hydebank	2,040	166	1,874
2004			
Maghaberry	821	251	566
Magilligan	1,344	130	1,204
Hydebank	2,680	225	2,453
2005			
Maghaberry	1,175	383	757
Magilligan	1,344	163	976
Hydebank	2,603	704	2,073
2006			
Maghaberry	1,510	419	962
Magilligan	1,381	139	1,053
Hydebank	1,678	134	1,544

Note:
At the end of each year there are always a number of test results outstanding.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by Number 10; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138379]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) today.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what conversations he had in April 2004 with President Bush concerning *(a)* Al-Jazeera radio station and *(b)* Fallujah; and if he will make a statement; [137904]

(2) what representations he made in April 2004 to the US Administration on US tactics in the assault on Fallujah; [137905]

(3) what representations he made in April 2004 to the US Administration on the effect on British troops of American tactics in the assault on Fallujah; [137906]

(4) what negotiations he had with President Bush and other members of the US Administration in April 2004 on the redeployment of British troops outside south-eastern Iraq. [137907]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answers I gave the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan (Mr. Salmond) on 13 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 597W; and, the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 28 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 23W.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff funded by the public purse in his Office are classified as people without posts. [137673]

David Cairns: None.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet *(a)* is and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137800]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Over the last five years, the Department's PFI project for the redevelopment of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington was included in the Department's balance sheet. The PFI contract was terminated in December 2004. The building is now owned outright by the Department and continues to appear on the balance sheet. The value of the building at termination was £86.3 million [the current value is £92.6 million]. The Department had one other PFI during the period—the provision of IT—services—which was and still is off the balance sheet.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years. [137801]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry had two private finance initiative projects during the period—the PFI project for the redevelopment of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) at Teddington, which was terminated in December 2004, and the provision of its IT services. Service payments for NPL PFI contract were met from a programme budget. Payments for IT services are met from the Department's administration budget. The figures are as follows:

	£ million	
	NPL	*IT Services*
2001-02	7.1	35.2
2002-03	7.4	45.1
2003-04	9.9	52.5
2004-05	9.0	54.6
2005-06	?	52.5

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what value of annual private finance initiative payments by his Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137802]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All payments made under PFI are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments was *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137803]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department had two PFI contracts during the period—the redevelopment of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington which was terminated in December 2004 and the provision of IT services. In the case of the NPL contract, the Department accounted for the unitary fee payments as:

	Capital repayment	£ million Resource
2001-02	1.4	5.7
2002-03	2.4	5.0
2003-04	0.4	9.5
2004-05	0.3	8.7
2005-06	—	—

Departments: Telephones Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many telephone helplines are sponsored by his Department with the prefix *(a)* 0870 and *(b)* 0845; and whether alternative geographic numbers are available in each case. [138488]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A number of "08" telephones services are administered by the department for public use. From central records the only information that can be provided on the Department's use of 0870 and 0845 telephone numbers is listed below. Call volumes to these numbers, especially the 0870 numbers, are relatively low and the Department does not offer alternative geographic contact numbers;

(a)

0870 191 0111
0870 191 0112
0870 191 0113
0870 191 0114
0870 191 0115
0870 191 0116
0870 191 0117
0870 191 0118
0870 240 5927
0870 240 5929
0870 600 6080
0870 606 1515

(b)

0845 001 0030
0845 015 0010
0845 015 0020
0845 015 0030
0845 019 0001
0845 404 0506
0845 600 0678
0845 600 9006
0845 955 5105

Digital Broadcasting: Broadcasting Reception

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many television signal reception installers had signed up to the Registered Digital Installer scheme at 30 April 2007, broken down by ITV region. [138162]

Margaret Hodge: Information recorded at 30 April 2007 by the Registered Digital Installer-Licensing Body is set out in the following table.

ITV region	Enrolled/ registered for training	Registered digital installers (RDIs)	Associate RDIs
Anglia	28	0	1
Border	10	0	1
Central	143	13	11
Grampian	3	1	0
Granada	54	0	4
HTV Wales	87	6	3
HTV West	7	0	4
London	73	1	0
Meridian	34	0	3
Scottish TV	4	0	0
Tyne Tees	38	0	7
Ulster	1	0	0
West Country	20	0	1
Yorkshire	331	24	10
Total	833	45	46

The number of accredited installers is now increasing week-by-week and, as at 14 May 2007, there were 56 RDIs.

The Associate RDI Scheme, which is mentioned in the table, has been launched by the RDI Licensing Body as a temporary measure given the need for consumers to be able to identify honest and reliable aerial installers in the interim before significant numbers of installers gain full RDI qualification. Associate RDIs have met the following criteria:

have enrolled or given a commitment to enrol for relevant NVQ training;

have undertaken and met the requirements of a suitable Working at Heights course;

have a minimum of one year's relevant work experience within the aerial industry;

provided evidence of a satisfactory Basic Criminal Records Disclosure and Public Liability insurance.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* former miners and *(b)* members of families of former miners in (i) North Staffordshire, (ii) Newcastle-under-Lyme and (iii) the UK have (A) made claims, (B) received interim payments and (C) accepted final settlements in respect of compensation for (1) chronic bronchitis and emphysema or other respiratory diseases, (2) vibration white finger, (3) carpal tunnel syndrome and (4) pneumoconiosis; how much has been paid in respect of each category; and how many claims of each type in each area have yet to be settled in full. [138817]

Margaret Hodge: The following table shows the information requested. We can only provide figures by constituency or postcode. Figures for north Staffordshire are not available. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) covers chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

	Newcastle-under-Lyne		Total[1]	
	Miners	Families	Miners	Families
COPD claims				
Claims registered	1,108	1,678	242,369	349,347
Claimants who have received an interim payment	139	232	20,137	48,420
Total settlements	924	1,055	205,273	234,302
Outstanding claims	184	623	37,096	115,045
Total damages paid	3,441,561	6,193,312	689,263,396	1,401,895,349
VWF claims				
Claims registered	620	92	132,392	22,915
Claimants who have received an interim payment	231	30	66,868	7,945
Total settlements	550	85	114,692	20,640
Outstanding claims	70	7	17,700	2,275
Total damages paid	3,504,951	391,379	1,159,518,929	111,361,108
Carpal tunnel syndrome claims				
Claims registered	73	2	13,353	957
Claimants who have received an interim payment	38	—	9,839	582
Total settlements	62	2	10,449	761
Outstanding claims	11	—	2,904	196
Total damages paid	661,115	3,398	176,946,980	6,939,705

[1] The figures include almost 5,000 overseas claims.

The Department is unable to identify those COPD claims which include a pneumoconiosis element. However, under the coal workers pneumoconiosis scheme we have received 90,271 claims, 89,418 of which have been settled by payment. We are unable to provide specific data for the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency, nor provide the split between miners and their families.

Iran: Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations the Government has received from the United States Administration on UK export credit guarantees to Iran since January; and if he will make a statement. [134325]

Mr. McCartney: The Government have received no representations from the United States Administration on this issue.

Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many UK export credit guarantees were issued by the Export Credits Guarantee Department on contracts with the National Iranian Oil Company in each of the last five years; and what the value was of each guarantee. [137474]

Mr. McCartney: ECGD has provided support for contracts with National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) in the last five years. National Petrochemical Company (NPC) is a subsidiary of NIOC and figures in the table detail NIOC and NPC contracts supported by ECGD:

	Number of NIOC contracts supported by ECGD	Number of NPC subsidiary contracts supported by ECGD	Total number of contracts supported, including NPC subsidiary contracts	Value of NIOC contracts supported by ECGD (£)	Value of NPC subsidiary contracts supported by ECGD (£)	Total value of contracts supported, including NPC subsidiary contracts (£)
2002	0	1	1	0	23,546,882	23,546,882
2003	2	9	11	545,399	62,684,231	63,229,630
2004	3	2	5	62,425,531	9,307,097	71,732,628
2005	0	2	2	0	109,164,215	109,164,215
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0

MG Rover

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the progress of the Companies Act investigation into MG Rover. [136291]

Mr. Darling: The Companies Act inspection is ongoing. My Department meets regularly with the inspectors and monitors progress. The inspection will be completed as quickly as possible, consistent with a need to be thorough and fair.

Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 817W, on waste electric and electronic equipment, if he will place in the Library the results of research sponsored by his Department and the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs into the levels of waste disposal due to switchover. [138935]

Malcolm Wicks: A copy of this research has been placed in the Libraries of the House, and has also been published at:

http://www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk/pdf_documents/publications/2007/Digital_Disposal_Report.pdf

TRANSPORT

Cycleways

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the use of cycleways, where they exist, is planned to become compulsory under the revised edition of the Highway Code. [138619]

Dr. Ladyman: No. The advice on using cycle facilities, including cycle ways, in both the current and the proposed revised Highway Code is not a legal requirement. It does not place any compulsion on cyclists to use any kind of cycle facilities and it remains their decision whether or not they follow this advice. The distinction between legal requirements and advisory rules is made clear in the introduction to the code.

Driving: Smoking

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a ban on smoking while driving. [138815]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no plans to bring forward legislation to ban smoking while driving.

Road traffic legislation already places responsibility on all drivers to have proper control of their vehicles. Any motorist who fails to do so, for whatever reason, such as smoking, eating, drinking, using a hands-free mobile phone, etc. is liable to prosecution.

Rule 126 of the current edition of the Highway Code highlights the need to concentrate and avoid distractions while driving. The proposed revised Highway Code, as laid in Parliament on 28 March 2007, proposes the addition of 'smoking' in the list of potential distractions to be avoided.

Galileo Project

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost has been of the UK Government's commitment to the Galileo project; what further commitments have been entered into since the original agreement with the EU; and if he will make a statement. [138204]

Dr. Ladyman: The European Union (EU) and member states of the European Space Agency (ESA) jointly fund the design and development programme for Galileo. To date the UK's subscription to the ESA element of the programme has been €142 million. This includes an additional UK commitment made in August 2006 to meet cost increases to the development phase.

The EU's contribution to the design and development programme is made from the EC budget and is estimated by the Commission to be €790 million. The UK's contribution to the EC budget is around 17 per cent. of the total, before the UK receives any abatement.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many communication satellites are envisaged for the Galileo project; what timescale is provided for its completion; and what changes in funding and organisation have resulted from the decision of the private sector partners not to honour future funding provisions. [138207]

Dr. Ladyman: The Galileo global constellation is expected to comprise 30 satellites.

The Commission has reported that there has been a breakdown in the public private partnership (PPP) contract negotiations. The immediate cause of the breakdown is an ongoing disagreement about industrial work-share between the partners in the bidding consortium.

The March Transport Council gave the bidding consortium a deadline of 10 May 2007 to resolve their differences and take the necessary measures to allow the resumption of effective negotiations. At the same time the Commission was requested to prepare an analysis of the consortium's response and to develop alternative options for taking forward the Galileo project. A more detailed discussion on these issues will follow at the June Transport Council, where it is likely that Ministers will be asked to decide whether to continue with the current negotiations, or to end them and to request the Commission to explore in further detail the alternative options for proceeding with the project. Governance of the project will also be considered.

The timetable for the programme, its funding, and its organisation are therefore subject to these decisions.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles are registered in the road tax band *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E, *(f)* F and *(g)* G; and how many vehicles are registered as historic. [138816]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested, as at 31 December 2006, can be found in the following table.

Tax band	*Volume*
Band A	350
Band B	378,473
Band C	3,970,719
Band D	3,276,140
Band E	2,508,969
Band F	3,553,507
Band G	129,510

The number of vehicles licensed in the historic tax class as at 31 December 2006 was 307,407.

Motor Vehicles: Recycling

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been fined for failing to comply with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency regulation relating to vehicle disposal since the introduction of changed responsibilities and procedures in 2004. [138443]

Dr. Ladyman: Since January 2004 there has been a total of 180,034 cases for failing to notify disposal of a vehicle. 175,000 people were subsequently fined.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value is of fines collected by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency relating to incorrect vehicle keeper information since 1 January 2004. [138444]

Dr. Ladyman: A total of 2,829,000 has been collected in fines by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency during the period January 2004-April 2007 in relation to incorrect vehicle keeper information (The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002).

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to advise motorists of changed responsibilities if they cease to be the keeper of a vehicle. [138756]

Dr. Ladyman: In January 2004, a wide-reaching publicity campaign was launched to advise motorists of new registration requirements whereby the registered keeper remains liable for licensing a vehicle until DVLA is notified of its sale or transfer. Failure to comply results in the registered keeper incurring an £80 late licensing penalty if the vehicle remains untaxed.

The campaign was aimed specifically at informing motorists of the importance of notifying DVLA when their vehicle changed hands. It included:

An information leaflet inserted in all V11 renewal reminders from January 2004 for 12 months

A television advertisement was broadcast from February 2004 to June 2004

Specific radio advertisements were broadcast from March 2004 to July 2004

Online advertisements were featured on buying and selling pages of well known motoring websites from August 2004 to March 2005

Advertisements were featured in specialist motoring magazines from August 2004 to March 2005

2 public information television fillers were produced by COI and marketed to television stations from January 2004 for a minimum 12 month period

A public relations campaign was used to highlight the messaging in the national and regional press throughout 2004.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans *(a)* to introduce bi-annual MOTs and *(b)* to increase the age of new cars to four years before the first MOT becomes due; and if he will make a statement. [138814]

Dr. Ladyman: We will be consulting shortly on options for the future conduct of the MOT scheme—and specifically about the frequency of testing—following a recommendation that we do so in the Davidson Review of the implementation of EU legislation. This consultation will include a full discussion of the potential advantages and disadvantages of making any change to test frequency.

Tyres

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* availability, *(b)* reliability and *(c)* accuracy of garage forecourt equipment to inflate tyres; and if he will make a statement. [138529]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport requested information in 2005 from the Petroleum Retailers Association who advised that over 50 per cent. of garage forecourts have tyre pressure inspection/inflation equipment. This equipment is checked on a regular basis under maintenance contracts. The equipment is not required under any legislative provision and there are no plans to regulate for this.

TREASURY

Computer Software: Contracts

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many software houses successfully verified their subcontractors electronically under the revised Contractors Industry Scheme by 30 April 2007. [138085]

John Healey: By the end of April, software developed by 41 software houses had been successfully used by contractors to complete subcontractor verifications electronically.

Construction: Pay

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the new Construction Industry Scheme on-line verification may be given without a validated national insurance number. [138247]

John Healey: This information is only required when a subcontractor is a sole trader who holds a national insurance number.

Departments: Contracts

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* companies his Department's central accounting unit holds a contract; on what date each was contracted; and what the value is of each contract. [133321]

John Healey: List of contracts held by the HM Treasury central accounting unit.

Supplier Name	*Start date*
Jones Yarrell and Co Limited	1 April 2002
Oracle Corporation UK Limited	12 July 2002
National Westminster Bank plc	20 December 2002
Specialist Computer Centres plc	2 August 2006

The value of these contracts has not been provided on the grounds of commercial confidentiality.

Departments: Stationery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [134592]

John Healey: Information on payments made prior to 2002-03 could be provided only at disproportionate cost due to a change in accounting system. Total spending by HM Treasury on both branded and unbranded stationery in 2002-03 was £363,000. For details of spending since then, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr Francois) on 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1022W and 1 May 2CJ07, *Official Report*, column 1615W.

EDF

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what meetings he has had with the EDF electricity company in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [138917]

(2) what meetings his Department's officials have had with EDF on *(a)* the nuclear industry and *(b)* the energy review in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [138918]

(3) what meetings his Department's officials have had with representatives of the nuclear industry in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [138919]

(4) whether he plans to meet EDF in the next six months to discuss the Government's plans for the nuclear industry; [138920]

(5) what plans he has to meet representatives of the nuclear industry in the next six months. [138884]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings. For details of the Government's policy in this area, I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the Government's Energy White Paper published today.

EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the occasions on which the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has attended ECOFIN meetings; and what matters were discussed at each of those meetings. [136415]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* Ministerial attendance and the outcome of each ECOFIN have been reported either by written ministerial statement, written answer or, occasionally, by letter to the Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee.

Gift Aid: Cultural Heritage

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many cultural and heritage organisations received money through the Gift Aid scheme in each year since its introduction; [137982]

(2) what proportion of cultural and heritage organisations registered as charities in the United Kingdom made use of the Gift Aid scheme in each year since its introduction; [137984]

(3) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* maximum and *(c)* minimum turnover of cultural and heritage organisations registered as charities in the United Kingdom making use of the Gift Aid scheme was in each year since its introduction. [137985]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs data do not breakdown Gift Aid claims by the type of charity and the information requested could not be obtained without disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Annual Reports

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the guidance provided by his Department to other departments on what they should include in their 2007 spring departmental reports. [135407]

Mr. Timms: The guidance issued for the 2007 spring departmental reports has been placed in the Library.

Income Tax: Charities

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the impact on the income of charities registered with the Gift Aid scheme of changes in the rates of income tax in the 2007 Budget. [137983]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer my right hon. Friend the Paymaster General gave the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Tim Farron) on 18 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 691W.

Official Hospitality

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1314W, on official hospitality, what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each official (i) lunch and (ii) dinner he hosted in the most recent period for which the information can be provided without disproportionate cost. [138015]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Pensions: Complaints

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints the Financial Ombudsman Service received on private and occupational pension schemes in each of the last 10 years. [138028]

Ed Balls: The Financial Ombudsman Service deal with the vast majority of the pension complaints about advice in relation to personal pensions. The following figures cover personal pensions only:

	Cases
1997-98	2,208
1998-99	3,403
1999-2000	3,656
2000-01	3,363
2001-02	5,881
2002-03	7,233
2003-04	5,303
2004-05	4,214
2005-06	4,053
2006-07	3,687

The Pensions Ombudsman can investigate and decide complaints and disputes about the way that occupational and personal pension schemes are run. The following figures cover complaints accepted as within the Pensions Ombudsman jurisdiction.

	Cases
1997-98	729
1998-99	719
1999-2000	627
2000-01	911
2001-02	831
2002-03	1,187
2003-04	1,394
2004-05	1,344
2005-06	937
2006-07	702

Pensions: Hong Kong

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the taxation and penalties incurred by those in the UK entitled to Hong Kong pensions as a result of tax refunds made by Hong Kong special administrative region; and if he will make a statement. [138014]

Ed Balls: The tax treatment of Hong Kong pensions received by UK residents is governed by the UK's normal domestic rules for relieving double taxation. Where the amount of Hong Kong tax was reduced, there was a corresponding increase in the UK tax payable.

Where tax is paid late, the law requires the taxpayer to pay interest. Interest is not in any sense a penalty. It is designed to recompense the Exchequer on a broadly commercial basis for the loss of the use of the tax paid late. There is no discretion over whether it is charged.

Public Private Partnerships

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which international organisations which publish assessments of the state of the UK economy he has supplied with data on total Government liabilities under PPP and private finance initiative partnerships. [138138]

John Healey: All expected unitary charge payments for PFI projects (with the exception of the London Underground PPP and Scottish Executive deals) are published on the HM Treasury's website and are therefore available to any international organisation, or individual.

http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnership_ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

The Treasury does not centrally collate information relating to payments made in public private partnerships.

Redundancy Pay: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent in severance pay to special advisers since 1997. [136331]

John Healey: Any severance pay to special advisers in the Treasury is made following the terms and conditions set out in the Cabinet Office model contract for special advisers. The total cost of special advisers in Government; including the cost of severance pay, is set out in an annual written statement to the House by the Prime Minister most recently of 26 July 2006.

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages: Internet

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total cost has been of the scheme for the online registration of births, deaths and marriages; and how much is accounted for by *(a)* software, *(b)* hardware, *(c)* press and publicity to promote the scheme and *(d)* training costs; [138062]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the scheme for the online registration of births, deaths and marriages in the UK; and what assessment he has made of the suitability of the *(a)* scheme as a whole and *(b)* chosen software to handle the volume of transactions required; [138063]

(3) what alternative schemes were considered by his Department before the adoption of the chosen scheme for the online registration of births, deaths and marriages in the UK; and what procurement process was followed for the scheme; [138064]

(4) what the name is of the software which is being used for the online registration of births, deaths and marriages in the UK; and whether the software was specifically designed for use in the UK; [138065]

(5) what representations he has received on the introduction of the on-line registration of births, deaths and marriages in the UK; and what problems have been experienced with the service; [138067]

(6) when he expects the national scheme for the online registration of births, deaths and marriages to be reactivated; and what funds have been set aside for that purpose. [138068]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 May 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking:

What the total cost has been of the scheme for the online registration of births deaths and marriages and how much is accounted for by (a) software (b) hardware (c) press and publicity to promote the scheme and (d) training costs. (138062)

What assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the scheme for the online registration of births deaths and marriages in the UK and what assessment he has made of the suitability of the (a) scheme as a whole and (b) chosen software to handle volume of transactions required. (138063)

What alternative schemes were considered before the adoption of the chosen scheme for the online registration of births deaths and marriages in the UK and what procurement process was followed for the scheme. (138064)

What the name is of the software which is being used for the online registration of births deaths and marriages in the UK and whether the software was specifically designed for use in the UK. (138065)

What representations have been received on the introduction of the online registration of births deaths and marriages in the UK and what problems have been experienced with the service. (138067)

When is the national scheme for the online registration of births deaths and marriages to be reactivated and what funds have been set aside for that purpose. (138068)

The total cost of the new system (known as "RON") is just over £6m, of which some £3.5m is for the software, £2.5m is for IT infrastructure, and £60,000 for training. Compared with its predecessor, the new system does not significantly alter the experience for informants when they carry out a registration, so no costs were set aside for publicity.

I expect the RON system to deliver considerable benefits once fully operational, both in terms of the speed with which registration data will become available centrally and the reduction in administrative effort in the General Register Office and local registration offices. There is no question of the software not being capable of handling the volume of transactions required.

There was a full procurement process for the software conducted in accordance with the principles of good procurement laid down by the Office for Government Commerce, and subject to Gateway Review. Before a final choice was made, a range of software products was extensively reviewed, tested and evaluated.

The software acquired as a result of the procurement is a package called VRVWeb, a system developed initially for use in the USA. The core system has been customised to ensure that its functionality meets the requirements of the registration service in England and Wales.

Representations have been received mainly from staff in registration offices. As would be expected, those in districts where RON has not worked well have expressed disappointment and frustration at the problems experienced, whereas a number of staff where RON has performed at expected levels have commented very favourably on its quality.

The RON system is currently being used by some 54% of Local Authorities. No precise estimate is currently being made of when it will be available to other authorities, all of which are able to continue to register births and deaths using pre-existing systems. The need to reintroduce RON in those districts in such a way as to ensure no detriment to current users means that the exercise must be very carefully planned and could take some months. Estimates of additional cost are currently being drawn up.

Tax Allowances: Bingo

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on reducing the tax burden for bingo clubs. [138071]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Taxation: Aviation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1630W, on taxation: aviation, for what reasons a formal assessment of the effects of introducing the Air Passenger Duty on small travel agents and tour operators was not carried out prior to its introduction. [138659]

John Healey: The pre-Budget report announced an increase in the rates of air passenger duty. This decision was taken in recognition of the environmental costs of air travel and also took into account economic and social factors, including the impact on airlines, travel agents and tour operators.

Taxation: Charities

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax revenue was received from cultural and heritage organisations registered as charities in each year since 1997. [137981]

Mr. Timms: The requested information is not available.

HMRC cannot break down tax receipts by type of charity.

Taxation: Games

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of consistency in taxation structures for gaming products since 2003. [138167]

John Healey: PBR 2005 announced the conclusion to the review of gambling taxation began in 2004. We concluded that the current taxation regimes are generally working well and that maintaining stability in the overall structure of taxation is desirable in a period of regulatory transition with the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005.

Decisions on the taxation of gambling are made by the Chancellor at Budget time taking all relevant factors into consideration.

Taxation: Overseas Residence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Sir Richard Cohen claims non-domicile tax treatment. [134095]

John Healey *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* Sir Ronald Cohen is not an adviser to the Treasury. The taskforce reported its findings to the Government in October 2000.

Taxation: Pensioners

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners living in Copeland will be removed from paying tax due to the changes announced in the 2007 Budget. [135496]

Ed Balls: Increasing the higher personal allowance for those aged 65 or over by £1,180 above indexation in April 2008 will remove 580,000 pensioners from paying tax.

Similar information at constituency level is not available due to small sample sizes.

This estimate is based on the 2004-05 Survey of Personal Incomes projected in line with Budget 2007 assumptions.

Written Questions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer Questions *(a)* 134095, on Sir Richard Cohen, tabled on 23 April 2007, *(b)* 131114, on marginal rate of taxation, tabled on 28 March 2007 and *(c)* 131115, on income tax, tabled on 28 March 2007; and if he will make a statement. [138441]

John Healey: The Treasury regrets the delay in answering the hon. Gentleman's questions. His question 134095 has now been answered and the other questions will be answered as soon as possible.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits Rules: Personal Income

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what process is used to determine the minimum income required for the purposes of setting benefit levels. [139047]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Government take into account a number of factors when reviewing benefit rates each year, the most important of which is the level of inflation. For some years, income related benefits have been increased by the Rossi index, which is based on the retail prices index and reflects the costs of living increases for people living on these benefits. Other benefits are increased in line with the retail prices index.

Child Support Agency: Disclosure of Information

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times over the last two years Child Support Agency staff have revealed confidential details of clients to former partners without permission in cases where there is a background of domestic violence. [138859]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Child Support Agency: Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total running costs were of each of the offices of the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years. [133901]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 23 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the total running costs was of each of the offices of the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years. [133901]

The Agency has people employed in over 200 discreet buildings. Unfortunately, the Departments Accounting System does not allow us to provide an analysis of the total spending by each of these buildings. The information is therefore not available in the format requested. The total administrative expenditure of the Agency is disclosed each year in the Annual Report and Accounts.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Pay

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much in performance bonuses was paid to officials at the Child Support Agency in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; to whom such bonuses were paid; and if he will make a statement. [126815]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 23 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much in performance bonuses was paid out to officials at the Child Support Agency in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; to whom such bonus were paid; and if he will make a statement. [126815]

The Child Support Agency is an executive Agency of the Department for Work and Pensions and operates a Performance Bonus scheme within a framework set out by the Department.

This is an annual scheme linked to annual appraisals markings, determined as part of the Departmental Performance and Development System. Overall funding available, and the size of the individual bonuses, were determined through discussions with Treasury about the Departments pay remit, and then, through negotiations with the unions.

All payments made in the last 12 months were for the 2005/06 performance year. Total payments for the 2005/06 performance year were £3.314m and were all made In July 2006 salaries.

The table attached at Annex A provides the distribution of performance gradings throughout the Agency for 2005/06. All employees receiving a 'majority' rating or higher receive a performance bonus.

In addition the Agency operates a Special Bonus scheme in line with Treasury guidance. Payments in any one-year are limited to 0.25% of the staffing budget. An Individual may be awarded a one-off bonus outside the annual reward performance and development system exercise to recognise and reward exceptional personal achievement.

In the twelve months to January 2007 the Agency paid £554,108 in special bonuses with an average cash value of £148. The vast majority, (94%) of these payments went to Agency people directly Involved in delivering our service to clients.

Annex A: Number/proportion of agency people receiving performance gradings

	Top	*Higher*	*Majority*	*Lower*
Number of staff	2000	4000	5000	500
Proportion of staff (percentage)	19	34	44	4

Notes:

1. The figures provided are approximate, based upon the best available information from the departmental accounts system. All figures are rounded to the nearest 500. Percentages rounded to the nearest whole percent.
2. Only those marked majority or above are eligible for a performance bonus.

Epilepsy

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what information his Department collects on people with epilepsy; [138583]

(2) whether epilepsy is classified as a disability under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Acts; and if he will make a statement; [138584]

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the impact of the Disability Discrimination Acts on access to employment for people with *(a)* disabilities and *(b)* epilepsy. [138585]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government have a number of surveys (including the Labour Force Survey, the ONS Omnibus Survey, and the General Household Survey) which include information on whether the respondent has epilepsy. They provide information on the respondent's age, sex, employment status, place of abode, interaction with the benefit system, marital status, income, participation in society and education. They also capture whether the respondent has experienced problems with accessibility, problems with participating in society, discrimination as a result of their health condition, and whether the respondent is aware of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

A person is a disabled person for the purposes of the Act if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. A person with epilepsy will be protected by the provisions of the Act as long as their impairment meets the Act's definition. The statutory "Guidance on matters to be taken into account in determining questions relating to the definition of disability" makes clear that a disability can arise from a wide range of impairments which can include:

"impairments with fluctuating or recurring effects such as rheumatoid arthritis, myalgic encephalitis (ME)/chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), fibromyalgia, depression and epilepsy".

My Department undertakes regular research on how employers are responding to their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act. This shows that organisations are responding positively to their duties under the Act and that employers have positive attitudes towards employing disabled people. For example:

84 per cent. of employers that had employed disabled staff had made, or were planning, adjustments for disabled people. The majority making adjustments had found them easy to make.[1]

Around two-fifths of employers reported they had made adjustments due to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Most changes were motivated by an interplay of factors, including 'doing the right thing' and business benefits, as well as the influence of the Act.[1]

The research does not focus on specific impairments, but when asked in 2006 how easy it would be for them to employ somebody with epilepsy, 65 per cent. of employers said that it would be easy. This has increased since 2003, when only 52 per cent. said that it would be easy.[2]

Sources:

[1] "Organisations' responses to the Disability Discrimination Act", DWP research report 410, 2007. http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep410.pdf.

[2] "Disability in the workplace: employers' and service providers' responses to the DDA in 2003 and preparation for 2004 changes", DWP research report 202, 2004. http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2003-2004/rrep202.asp

Jobseeker's Allowance: Literacy

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of those receiving jobseeker's allowance lack level 1 reading skills. [138595]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of pensioners have been living in absolute poverty in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [131280]

James Purnell: The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors, therefore they will not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Information can not be provided at a lower level than Government Office Region. Therefore figures for the North East region and United Kingdom are shown in the tables as follows.

Table 1: North East region: Number and percentage of pensioners living in households below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 real-terms median income: After housing costs

	1996-97 to 1998-99	*1997-98 to 1999-2000*	*1998-99 to 2000-01*	*1999-2000 to 2001-02*	*2000-01 to 2002-03*	*2001-02 to 2003-04*	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*
Number (million)	0.15	0.14	0.12	0.09	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.03
Percentage	33	30	26	20	14	10	8	7

Notes:

1. Numbers, for the North East region, are presented using a three-year moving average, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with any previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time. In circumstances such as a change in trend, moving averages will show less variation than single-year estimates.
2. Absolute poverty is defined as below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 real-terms median income.
3. Figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
4. Table shows number of pensioners in millions—rounded to nearest 10 thousand.

Source:

Family Resources Survey

Table 2: United Kingdom: Number and percentage of pensioners living in households below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 real-terms median income: After housing costs

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Number (million)	2.9	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8
Percentage	29	25	20	14	12	10	8	8

Notes:
1. Data for the United Kingdom are only available from 1998-99 onwards.
2. Absolute poverty is defined as below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 real-terms median income.
3. Figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners have been defined as living in relative poverty in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [131376]

James Purnell: The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors, therefore they will not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Information can not be provided at a lower level than Government office region. Therefore figures for the North East region and United Kingdom are shown in the following tables.

Table 1: North East region—number and percentage of pensioners living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income: after housing costs

	Number (million)	Percentage
1996-97 to 1998-99	0.15	32
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.15	31
1998-99 to 2000-01	0.14	31
1999-2000 to 2001-02	0.13	28
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.13	27
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.11	23
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.09	20
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.08	17

Notes:
1. Numbers, for the North East region, are presented using a three-year moving average, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with any previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time. In circumstances such as a change in trend, moving averages will show less variation than single-year estimates.
2. Relative poverty is defined as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income.
3. Figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Table shows number of pensioners in millions—rounded to nearest 10,000.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Table 2: United Kingdom—number and percentage of pensioners living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income: after housing costs

	Number (million)	Percentage
1998-99	2.9	29
1999-2000	2.8	28
2000-01	2.7	26
2001-02	2.7	26
2002-03	2.5	24
2003-04	2.2	21
2004-05	1.9	18
2005-06	1.8	17

Notes:
1. Data for the United Kingdom are only available from 1998-99 onwards.
2. Relative poverty is defined as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income.
3. Figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.

Source:
Family Resources Survey.

Social Security Benefits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the number of people receiving inactive benefits; and if he will make a statement. [138714]

Mr. Plaskitt: "Inactive benefits" include income support, pension credit for males aged 60 to 64, incapacity benefit (including credits-only cases), and severe disablement allowance.

As at November 2006, the most recent available figure, there were 3,701,710 people in receipt of inactive benefits in Great Britain.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has for simplifying the benefits system for disabled people. [138715]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1208W.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 24 May 2007

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Magistrates Courts: Closure

22. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Solicitor-General when he next expects to meet representatives of the lay magistracy to discuss the closure of small magistrates courts. [138949]

The Solicitor-General: I regularly meet with lay magistrates when visiting areas of the country; however, the specific issue is not regularly raised.

Ministry of Justice

23. **David Taylor:** To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the creation of the Ministry of Justice on the work of the Crown Prosecution Service. [138950]

The Solicitor-General: The creation of the Ministry of Justice does not affect the responsibilities of the Law Officers or those of their Departments. The prosecuting authorities, including the CPS, will remain independent, and subject to our statutory superintendence. The existing trilateral arrangements for the criminal justice system are preserved. The Law Officers and the CPS play a full part in those arrangements.

Antisocial Behaviour: Prosecutions

24. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment he has made of the conduct of recent prosecutions by the Crown Prosecution Service for breaches of criminal antisocial behaviour orders; and if he will make a statement. [138951]

The Solicitor-General: Since 2004, the Crown Prosecution Service has had a team of specialist prosecutors providing guidance and training to all prosecutors in the effective application of antisocial behaviour legislation. This has ensured a consistent approach to the prosecution of antisocial behaviour across all areas, including breaches of those orders granted following conviction, and following application by a relevant authority.

Reoffenders: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will visit Kettering constituency to discuss with local people the prosecution of persistent offenders by the Crown Prosecution Service. [139093]

The Solicitor-General: I will certainly consider such a visit if it can be accommodated in my diary of visits to other areas of the country.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Betting Shops

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what change there has been in the number of betting shops since the enactment of the Gambling Act 2006. [137050]

Mr. Caborn: Local magistrates courts currently issue bookmakers' permits. The Government does not hold information centrally on the number of bookmakers' permits held.

However, the Gambling Commission has undertaken to publish figures on the number of licensed betting offices in 2008.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many betting shops there were in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [138879]

Mr. Caborn: Local magistrates courts currently issue bookmakers permits. The Government does not hold information centrally on the number of bookmakers permits held.

However, the Gambling Commission has undertaken to publish figures on the number of licensed betting offices in 2008.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate she has made of the potential value of land in the Olympic park following the games in 2012; [132550]

(2) what the sharing mechanism will be between the National Lottery and London council tax payers in respect of any windfall profits earned from the sale of land in the Olympic park after 2012; [132557]

(3) what estimate she has made of the likely provision to the national lottery good causes from any windfall profits earned from the sale of land in the Olympic park after 2012 to which she referred in her statement of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 451. [132636]

Tessa Jowell: The Mayor of London and I have now agreed after further discussion that we will rewrite our memorandum of understanding to put in place profit-sharing arrangements. This will provide that, after the The London Development Agency (LDA) has been repaid for the purchase and remediation of the land, the first call on any profit will be to repay the lottery.

LDA is currently leading detailed work to make a thorough assessment of the potential end values of land in the Olympic park and we await the outcome of that work. At this point—over five years before the games—it is difficult to predict this with certainty. However, land disposal plans will aim to maximise land revenues.

Written Questions

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to reply to questions *(a)* 132550, *(b)* 132557 and *(c)* 132636, on the Olympic park, tabled by the hon. Member for East Devon on 18 April. [139233]

Tessa Jowell: I can confirm that the questions referred to have been answered today.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for his Office in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139440]

Mr. Straw: None.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how many times his Office was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139217]

Mr. Straw: None.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how much has been spent by his Office on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139396]

Mr. Straw: None.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House what the cost of leasing buildings and office space was for his Office in each of the last five years. [139467]

Mr. Straw: This information is not held. For the period in question, the Leader of the House of Commons Office was a minor occupier in property leased by the Privy Council Office and was not hard charged for the space occupied.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by his Office on public relations in each of the last five years. [139423]

Mr. Straw: None.

Members Staff: Unsolicited Official Documents

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Leader of the House what guidance is available to hon. Members' staff on action which they should take on receipt of unsolicited official documents. [138166]

Mr. Straw: Hon. Members' staff are employed by the hon. Member concerned. It is a matter for hon. Members, as their employer, to give advice to their staff on any matter, including through the standard contract of employment.

Members' staff are subject to the same obligations under the law in respect of handling and returning any unsolicited official documents as other citizens.

Parliamentary Scrutiny: Legislative Drafting

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House which Bills were subject to pre-legislative scrutiny in each of the last 10 years; and which Bills he plans to allocate for pre-legislative scrutiny in the next 12 months. [138975]

Mr. Straw: Bills which have been published in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny since 1997 are listed, by parliamentary session. The list includes draft bills published so far in the current session. The Government have also announced that a draft Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill will be published in the current session. Decisions about bills to be published in draft in the next session will be announced in due course.

1997-98

Pension Sharing on Divorce
Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy)
Limited Liability Partnerships

1998-99

Financial Services and Markets
Food Standards
Local Government (Organisation and Standards)
Electronic Communications
Freedom of Information
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums

1999-2000

Commonhold and Leasehold Reform
Football
Insolvency
International Criminal Court
Regulatory Reform
Water

2000-01

Export Control and Non-Proliferation
Proceeds of Crime

2001-02

Communications
Companies
Extradition
Justice (Northern Ireland)
Local Government
Mental Health
NHS (Wales)

2002-03

Civil Contingencies
Corruption
Electricity (Trading and Transmission)
Gambling (part)
Gender Recognition
Housing

Mental Incapacity
Nuclear Sites and Radioactive Substances
Police (Northern Ireland)
Public Audit (Wales)
2003-04
Animal Welfare
Charities
Civil Service
Criminal Defence Service
Disability Discrimination
Gambling (part)
Identity Cards
Mental Health
Regional Assemblies
School Transport
Single European Currency
Transport (Wales)
2004-05
Children (Contact) and Adoption
Commissioner for Older People (Wales)
Company Law Reform
Corporate Manslaughter
Natural Environment and Rural Communities
2005-06
Terrorism
Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement
Coroners
Legal Services
2006-07 (to date)
Climate Change
Human Tissue and Embryos
Local Transport
Regulatory Enforcement and Sanction

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abandoned Vehicles

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many investigatory cases have been delayed because of Operation Cube; and when he expects the review to be brought to conclusion. [133331]

Paul Goggins: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) has provided PSNI with a list of those cases that it believes may have been affected. PSNI is presently gathering further information regarding the investigative status of cases on the list and their priority before deciding upon further action. Given the current position of this exercise PSNI are unable to provide a timeline or quantify the cases involved.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff funded by the public purse were classified as people without posts in *(a)* his office and *(b)* its agencies, prior to the restoration of the devolved institutions. [137902]

Paul Goggins: Currently nil staff funded by the public purse were classified as people without posts in the Northern Ireland Office or any of its agencies prior to the restoration of the devolved institutions.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project; [137816]

(2) what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years; [137817]

(3) what value of annual private finance initiative payments by his Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project; [137818]

(4) what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments by his Department were *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137819]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not have any private finance initiative projects.

The NIO has an off-balance sheet commitment under public-private partnership (PPP) which is the Causeway project. The Causeway project is a partnership between Fujitsu Services and the NIO. The PPP contract was let with Fujitsu in August 2003 to deliver a managed service related to the electronic sharing of information across the criminal justice organisations in Northern Ireland over a 10 year period.

Forensic Science: Criminal Investigation

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the potential for the operational review of techniques on forensic analysis (Operation Cube) to delay the conduct of police investigations in Northern Ireland. [132059]

Paul Goggins: An issue has arisen regarding examinations for traces of DNA undertaken by the Forensic Science Service (FSS), during the period December 1999 and September 2005. FSS has provided PSNI with a list of those cases that it believes may have been affected. PSNI is presently gathering further information regarding the investigative status of cases on the list and their priority before deciding upon further action.

Payments: Police Service of Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much discount in payment for goods and services was lost by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last three years owing to a failure to pay invoices within the stipulated period. [132426]

Paul Goggins: It is PSNI policy always to avail itself of supplier discount when offered. No discount has been lost by PSNI in any of the last three years.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many heavily armoured Land Rovers are available to British troops in each region of Afghanistan. [136394]

Des Browne: There are around 140 Weapon-Mount Installation Kit Land Rovers and 130 Snatch Land Rovers deployed with British forces in southern Afghanistan. I am withholding deployment by region as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Armed Forces: Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual cost of one defence dental officer was in each of the last five years. [133148]

Derek Twigg: In order to calculate the average cost of one uniformed defence medical services dental officer, average capitation rates have been obtained as follows. These include pay, allowances, earnings-related national insurance contributions and superannuation as well as allowances for support, training and higher formation costs. It has not been possible to obtain historic rates prior to 2004-05.

Financial year	*Total capitation rate (£)*
2004-05	174,103
2005-06	179,326
2006-07	185,809

The pay of all general dental practitioners is calculated from a single incremental tri-service pay spine, and the pay element of the aforementioned figures is based on a simple average across the spine. An average figure has been used in calculating the other elements (as noted) making up the capitation rates.

These do not take into account the differing rates across the services for support functions such as accommodation and infrastructure.

Armed Forces: Facilities

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what incentives are given to garrison commanders and unit commanders to generate income from the hire to the public of military facilities for non-military purposes; and if he will make a statement. [137916]

Derek Twigg: Under the Treasury's Wider Markets Initiative, garrison and unit commanders—in common with the rest of the armed forces, the Ministry of Defence and other Government Departments—are encouraged to exploit commercially those assets which need to be retained but are not fully used.

The Treasury allows Departments to keep, and use as additional expenditure, the revenue they earn from Wider Markets. Within the armed forces and MOD, the extra income can be used both towards achieving core objectives and, at budget holders' discretion, funding 'quality of life' improvements at the workplace of the unit concerned. Incentives to generate income can be summarised as:

Better value for defence, resulting from this extra contribution to running costs.

More efficient use of irreducible spare capacity.

A benefit to public relations from working more closely with industry and the public. An opportunity for personnel to acquire commercial skills.

Armed Forces: Intimidation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the recent Continuous Attitude Survey findings relating to bullying and harassment in the armed forces. [137775]

Derek Twigg: These surveys demonstrate that we are listening to our armed forces personnel. Like any good employer, we need to monitor the long-term perceptions of our people so that we can review our policies.

Harassment and bullying are unacceptable in the armed forces, because of their impact on individuals, team cohesion and thus operational effectiveness. The armed forces are committed to raising awareness that bullying and harassment will not be tolerated, and allegations will be thoroughly investigated and action taken, where appropriate.

The armed forces have entered into formal agreements with the Commission for Racial Equality to promote racial equality and take action to prevent racial harassment and discrimination and, with the Equal Opportunities Commission to prevent and deal with sexual harassment. They also have a range of work in hand in response to the Adult Learning Inspectorate report on "Safer Training", the HCDC's report on Duty of Care and Sir Nicholas Blake's report on the death at the Princess Royal Barracks Deepcut.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Osten: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people who served in the armed forces between 1948 and 1974 do not receive a pension arising from that service. [134136]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 26 April 2007]:* The information requested is not held.

Armed Forces: Schools

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria apply to applications from *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* civilian personnel for places in Service Children's Education schools. [138792]

Derek Twigg: The admission criteria for SCE schools is contained within Joint Service Publication (JSP) 342 - Education of Service Children.

Chapters 3 and 6 contain details relevant to admission and can be found at:

www.sceschools.com/publications

The document is currently being updated.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place for discussions between his Department and *(a)* the Department for Education and Skills, *(b)* devolved administrations and *(c)* local authorities on the educational needs of service children; what progress has been made on the implementation of a cross-UK forum to discuss these issues; and if he will make a statement. [138793]

Derek Twigg: There is regular contact between the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Education and Skills, the devolved administrations and local authorities regarding the educational needs of service children. Both Departments have a nominated lead for these matters and policy discussions—such as MOD input for the new schools admissions code—take place as required. The MOD Children's Education Advisory Service is the Department's main conduit in dealing with devolved administrations and local authorities for specific casework.

The inaugural meeting of the Service Children's Education Forum was held on 17 April this year and was attended by representatives from DFES, the devolved administrations, the MOD Children's Education Advisory Service and Service Children's Education (for service schools overseas). The forum's main purpose is to raise and resolve educational issues that affect service children, particularly where movement in or between the different countries of the UK or between the UK and overseas is a significant contributing factor. The forum will meet in the spring and autumn of each year.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department for Education and Skills on improving the transfer of the statements of service children with special educational needs and high mobility. [138795]

Derek Twigg: Discussions are continuing with the Department for Education and Skills—and with devolved education authorities—to identify ways of addressing difficulties that arise when service children with special educational needs move between local authority areas, between the devolved education authorities of the UK or between the UK and overseas. This issue was raised most recently in the service children's education forum on 17 April this year.

The MOD Children's Education Advisory Service provides direct support to service families that have registered a child with special educational needs, which they are advised and strongly encouraged to do. This includes acting with and on behalf of parents in establishing how needs will be met in a new location and advising and accompanying them in dealings with local authorities, education authorities and the SEN and Disabilities Tribunal.

Armed Forces: Weapons

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* 51 mm light mortars, *(b)* 81 mm mortars, *(c)* 105 mm light guns, *(d)* AS 90 artillery guns and *(e)* 227 mm multiple launch rocket systems are (i) in service and (ii) fit for purpose. [137352]

Mr. Ingram: The information is provided in the following table:

	In service	*Fit for purpose*
51 mm mortars	1,190	[1]1,081
81 mm mortars	339	339
105 mm light guns	142	142
AS90 howitzers	146	[2]143
Multiple launch rocket system	59	59

[1] 109 awaiting inspection and repair
[2] Three permanently with industry for reference and test models.

Fit for purpose in this context has been interpreted as equipment which is, or will be shortly, available to the user for the purpose intended.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles are *(a)* in service and *(b)* fit for purpose, broken down by type. [137318]

Mr. Ingram: The following table gives details of the total number of armoured vehicles in service. Those vehicles deployed with units and with units used in training are all deemed to be fit for purpose. The remainder of the fleet is undergoing programmed maintenance and repair, in storage, on loan and with the design authority and also used for reference, training aids and specific trials.

Vehicle type	*Fleet size*	*Fit for purpose*
Challenger 2	385	320
CVR(T)	1,158	979
FV430 Mk 2	1,265	1,031
FV430 Bulldog[1]	227	187
Saxon GWR[2]	442	94
Saxon Patrol	147	119
Warrior	793	717

[1] Bulldog vehicles are currently in the course of delivery to MOD. The fleet sizes therefore relate to the total requirement and fit for purpose to the number delivered to date.
[2] Saxon GWR is currently being withdrawn from service.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Peace Keeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Land Rovers of each type have turned over in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since the first deployment of British armed forces in each country. [137618]

Mr. Ingram: Our collective records show that to date, there have been some 87 reported accidents, in Iraq, of Land Rovers "overturning without first colliding" and 13 in Afghanistan.

I can also confirm that at least 22 of these incidents in Iraq involved the Snatch variant Land Rover and at least two involved the WMIK variant; in Afghanistan at least three involved the Snatch and one involved a WMIK variant. The other incidents in both theatres involved the standard 'General Service' or 'Fitted For Radio' type variants. Further details of these vehicles could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Costs

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 50W, on the Army: costs, what the reasons were for the amount spent on maintenance of the property occupied by the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, broken down by main budget heading. [136625]

Derek Twigg: The figure of £4,702.52 previously provided under the generic heading 'maintenance' contained an error of £17.50. The total figure spend on maintenance was actually £4,685.02, which covered a range of costs. The breakdown is as follows:

Work carried out	*Cost (£)*
Supply gardening sundries	196.20
Various electrical repairs	288.40
Power wash external areas	654.48
Treat flea infestation	100.00
Wash windows/frames (internal and external)	599.25
Rebed loose masonry at patio wall	341.61
Eradicate wasps nest at driveway	99.88
Clean out guttering and down pipes	352.50
Replace dish washing machine	348.92
Rectify leak at waste disposal m/c	102.23
Trace/rectify leak in roof space	156.28
Supply and fix chrome soap dish	14.61
Reseal kitchen sink	26.40
Supply and fix handle at T/dryer	88.13
Replace x 8 tensioners at curtains	188.00
Replace bath c/w taps etc.	587.50
Replacement of oil pump	185.51
Testing of portable appliances (33)	88.20
Replace thermostatic valves x 2	125.92
Planned maintenance for boilers and smoke alarms	141.00
Total	4,685.02

Army: Greater London

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions the General Officer Commanding London District met hon. Members and peers in the last 12 months. [137437]

Derek Twigg: The information is provided in the following table.

Date	*Event*
11 May 2006	Armed forces parliamentary scheme visit.
17 June 2006	Lunch with Lord Inge
27 July 2006	Office call with Lord Guthrie
4 December 2006	Dinner with Philip Dunne MP
17 January 2007	Dinner with Keith Simpson MP
21 March 2007	Ex Household Division MP's dinner at Queen's Guard:-Hugo Swire MP, Andrew Robathan MP, Ben Wallace MP, Hugh Robertson MP, Mike Penning MP, David Tredinnick MP, and Adam Holloway MP

The above list does not include meetings with Ministers.

Army: Ski Lodges

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regiments of the Army have ski lodges. [138519]

Derek Twigg: The Army does not own any ski lodges. A number of lodges are rented by the Army to enable the conduct of Adventurous Training Activities under the auspices of the Joint Service Adventurous Training Scheme.

Individual regiments or corps are at liberty to have ski lodges using non-public funds. Information on which regiments or corps do so is not collated.

Chief of Defence Materiel

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the claims for expenses made by the Chief of Defence Materiel since January 2005. [137131]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The Chief of Defence Materiel has made no claims for expenses since 2 April 2007, when the post was established.

Civilian Operational Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 622W, on the civilian operational allowance, what progress has been made on the introduction of a new allowance. [138786]

Derek Twigg: The new allowance was introduced with effect from 1 April 2007. It replaces the previous separate entitlement to claim overtime, travelling time, shift allowance, night duty, stand-by, recall and on-call allowances. All MOD civil servants deploying to operational theatres now receive a simplified allowance 'package' comprising a one-off pre-deployment grant and, during deployment, the operational deployment allowance and the operational working allowance.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138459]

Mr. Ingram: The specific information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, summaries of MOD expenditure on external assistance are available in the Library of the House for the years 1995-96 to 2005-06.

Figures for financial year 2006-07 will be placed in the Library before the summer recess.

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints of bullying have been

investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134832]

Derek Twigg: The information is summarised in the following table for armed forces and MOD civilian personnel in the period April 2006 to March 2007.

Service	*Investigated*[1]	*Upheld*[2]
Royal Navy	13	9
Army	60	6
Royal Air Force	17	4
MOD Civil Service	39	4

[1] This column records the number of formal complaints of bullying reported within each service and the MOD civil service. This number includes ongoing cases and complaints which were later withdrawn.
[2] This column records the number of formal complaints upheld and excludes ongoing investigations (i.e. where some type of action was taken against the respondent).

The Department's Unified Diversity Strategy makes clear that bullying and harassment are not tolerated in the Ministry of Defence or the armed forces. Revised complaints procedures were published in January 2007. Ongoing internal communications keep personnel informed of their rights and responsibilities.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* gifts and *(b)* hospitality were received by the (i) Chief of the General Staff, (ii) Adjutant General, (iii) General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and (iv) Commander in Chief Land in the last 12 months. [135010]

Derek Twigg: Between 26 April 2006 and 26 April 2007 the gifts and hospitality received and accepted by the Chief of the General Staff, the Adjutant General, the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and the Commander in Chief Land are shown in the following tables.

During the same period, the Chief of the General Staff received 209 offers of hospitality/gifts and accepted 46. Commander in Chief Land received 75 offers, and accepted 19. General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland received 41 offers and accepted 16 and the Adjutant General received 42 offers and accepted 10.

Chief of the General Staff

Date	*Provider*	*Description*
1 May 2006	Brazilian Chief of the General Staff	Books
2 May 2006	General Commanding 1 Division	Plaque and clock
2 May 2006	Chilean ambassador	Book
2 May 2006	Chief of Joint Operations Chile	Pencil case
2 May 2006	Chief of Joint Operations Chile	Metal salver
2 May 2006	Chief of Joint Operations Chile	Pair of spurs
10 May 2006	Australian Chief of the General Staff	Boomerang
22 May 2006	Oxford Union	Address and dinner
25 May 2006	Editor of the House Magazine	Dinner
26 May 2006	Royal Chelsea Flower Show	Tickets and lunch
1 June 2006	De la Rue	Dinner
6 June 2006	Bucks Club	Dinner and speech
13 June 2006	Deborah Tan	Dinner
14 June 2006	Andrew Nurnberg	Lunch
15 June 2006	Aberdeen Asset Managers	Scottish music spectacular
16 June 2006	Robert Fox	Lunch
20 June 2006	Royal Academy of Music	Concert and dinner
23 June 2006	Afghani Minster of Defence	Plaque
29 June 2006	Fergus Greer (Studios)	Drinks
2 July 2006	Brazilian Defence Attaché	Books
8 July 2006	Lawn Tennis Association	Tickets and lunch
14 July 2006	Dutch Chief of the General Staff	Statuette
15 July 2006	Jamaican Chief of Staff	Picture
20 July 2006	Pakistani Vice Chief of the Army Staff	Plaque
23 July 2006	Canadian Forces Base Suffield and British Army Training Unit Suffield	Embroidery
24 July 2006	Vauxhall Cross	Dinner
25 July 2006	Archbishop of Canterbury	Reception
31 August 2006	Victory Services Association	Lunch
5 September 2006	Defence Correspondents	Cocktail party
6 September 2006	Brazilian embassy	Reception
6 September 2006	Pakistani high commissioner	Reception
7 September 2006	Ralph Zoellner (Boeing)	Dinner
12 September 2006	Lieutenant General Shoka	Figurine
14 September 2006	Brigadier-General Quezeda	Plaque
19 September 2006	The Lord Boyce	Dinner
20 September 2006	Egyptian embassy	Reception

Chief of the General Staff

Date	*Provider*	*Description*
21 September 2006	Saudi Arabian embassy	Reception
25 September 2006	Vickers Defence Systems	Bronze cannon
3 October 2006	Nigerian Chief of the General Staff	Book
2 December 2006	New Zealand Army Chief	Ceremonial weapon
2 December 2006	New Zealand Army Chief	Scarf and gloves
2 December 2006	New Zealand Army Chief	Plaque
2 December 2006	New Zealand Chief of the Defence Force	Plaque
2 December 2006	Australian Army Chief	Boomerang
2 December 2006	Australian Army Chief	Plaque
2 December 2006	Australian Army Chief	Scarf

Adjutant General

Date	*Provider*	*Description*
6 May 2006	The Babcock Inter-Services Championship	Rugby match/reception
23 May 2006	Visit of the British American Forecasting Exchange (BAFEX)	Gift—paperweight
29 June 2006	The British Forces Foundation	Annual charity ball
6 October 2006	The Variety Club	Lunch—guest
11 November 2006	Royal British Legion—Festival of Remembrance	Guest—Army Board representative
14 November 2006	United Services Mess	Remembrance dinner/speech
9 January 2007	The Basic Skills Agency	Reception/speech
15 January 2007	Visit from UAE, Chief of Administration and Manpower	Silver plate
24 January 2007	Woodroffe's	Lunch/speech
19 February 2007	Company of Fruiterers, The Masters, Wardens and Court of Assistants	Livery banquet—guest

General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland

Date	*Provider*	*Description*
8 May 2006	Lord Mayor of Belfast	Civic dinner, City Hall Belfast
9 May 2006	PUS (NIO) and Director of Policing and Security NI	Reception, Hillsborough Castle
15 May 2006	Secretary of State (NI)	Garden Party, Hillsborough Castle
7 June 2006	Stn Comd RAF Coningsby	Plaque on occasion of GOC's visit
9 August 2006	NICSS Regt	BFPO official first day cover
23 August 2006	25 Engr Regt	Plaque made of South Armagh Tower
9 September 2006	Order of Malta	Victory Day lunch and mass, Armagh
20 October 2006	North Irish Horse	Dinner, Belfast
4 November 2006	Royal British Legion	Festival of Remembrance, Belfast
11 November 2006	Queens University Services Club	Dinner, Belfast
23 November 2006	Presentation from unit under Command	Hip flask and cup set
24 November 2006	Forces Financial	Champagne reception London
11 December 2006	Secretary of State (NI)	Christmas reception
22 December 2006	Secretary of State (NI)	Security forces Christmas reception, Hillsborough Castle
20 February 2007	Thales	Meeting and lunch, Castlereagh
21 February 2007	Chief Constable	International policing conference, City Hall

Commander in Chief Land

Date of hospitality	*Provider*	*Description*
1 to 4 May 06	Allied Canadian Army StaffTalks	Mounted rock statue on base
23 to 24 May 06	Gen McNeil US Army	US army silver plate
22 June 2006	CGSNZ	Book and ceramic bowl
10 to 11 July 2006	Commander in Chief Germany	Tank in case
10 to 11 July 2006	Commander in Chief Germany	Paperweight
18 July 2006	Vice Chief of Army Staff Pakistan	Plaque
18 July 2006	Vice Chief of Army Staff Pakistan	Cufflinks and tie pin
13 September 2006	Lt Gen Shoke—CGS South African Army	Plaque
16 October 2006	Comd US Army Combined Arms Centre	Four silver cups in case
17 October 2006	CO US Army Welfare College	Wooden pencil box
17 October 2006	CO US Army Welfare College	Book on Westpoint

Commander in Chief Land

Date of hospitality	*Provider*	*Description*
17 October 2006	CO US Army College of General Staff	Book 'Block by Block'
13 December 2006	BAE Systems	Christmas drinks
12 October 2006	COS US Army	Bronze coin
15 October 2006	Chief of Staff Army (US)	US army book
15 October 2006	Deputy Chief of Staff Army (US)	Tankard
15 October 2006	Chief of Staff US Army	Serving bowl
9 March 2007	BAE Systems	Grand Military—lunch and hospitality
29 to 30 January 2007	COMFAT	Pewter ashtray

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total value is of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137781]

Mr. Ingram: The total capital value of each PFI project that is included in the MOD balance sheet is published in the Her Majesty's Treasury PFI Signed Projects List which can be found on the HMT website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total value is of the annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years. [137782]

Mr. Ingram: Details of the annual private finance initiative unitary charge payments are published in the Her Majesty's Treasury PFI Signed Projects List which can be found on the HMT website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

The relevant columns are V - Z.

All payments come from the revenue budget.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what value of the annual private finance initiative payments for his Department is *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137783]

Mr. Ingram: All payments made under private finance initiative (PFI) are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed, the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments is *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137784]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136866]

Derek Twigg: There were no departmental meetings between Defence Ministers and Sovereign Strategy between 1997 and 2006, although the Minister for Europe, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) met Alan Donnelly, Executive Chairman of Sovereign Strategy, on a number of occasions as they have been personal friends for a number of years. Also Ivor Caplin, a previous Defence Minister, met Alan Davidson, an Assistant Director of Sovereign Strategy, in a private capacity on 25 November 2004.

Specific data on the number of meetings between MOD officials and Sovereign Strategy are not held centrally within the Department and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Medical Treatments

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of medical treatment which have *(a)* been delayed and *(b)* not been received have been raised by veterans in the last five years. [137548]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the MOD or its Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA). Where a war pensioner raises priority treatment issues with MOD or SPVA, officials investigate and as appropriate take up cases with the relevant health authority.

HMS Albion

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons it is proposed to reduce HMS Albion to a state of extended readiness; and when he expects to announce a decision on the reduction. [138526]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* It is not MOD policy to publish details of the readiness states of individual Royal Navy vessels or types (we have made exceptions for the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible and those ships entering refit, as detailed in my letter of 6 March 2007); nor would we be prepared to divulge the readiness profile of the fleet as a whole, or comment on individual changes. Such information could enable deductions to be made about the condition and preparedness of units and of the Navy, and would therefore be prejudicial to the safety of individual units and to national security.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many visits he has made to servicemen and women wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan; and how many visits have been made by other Ministers. [138833]

Des Browne *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* Since 2003, Defence Ministers have made a total of 48 visits to injured service personnel in hospitals in the UK and overseas. Those injured service personnel include servicemen and women wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. The following table shows the number of visits made by each Minister.

	Visits
Secretary of State for Defence	19
Minister for the Armed Forces	10
Minister for Defence Equipment and Support	6
Under Secretary of State	13

In addition, Ministers have also visited personnel in the UK once they have returned from operational duty. On some of these occasions Ministers will have met injured personnel and their families.

Navy: Vessels

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which naval vessels have been sold by the Royal Navy in the last five years; what the *(a)* vessel type, *(b)* service cost and *(c)* destination country was in each case; and if he will estimate the (i) original costs of each vessel and (ii) financial gains accrued to public funds as a result of each sale. [137565]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* The information is provided in the following table:

	Type	*Country*	*Service cost*	*Original cost (£)*	*Sale price (£)*
2002-03					
HMS Beagle	Bulldog Class Hydrographical Survey Ship	[1]—	[2]—	[3]53 million	750,000
HMS London	T22 Frigate	Romania	[2]—	[4]156million	116 million
HMS Coventry				[4]147 million	
HMS Shetland	Island Class Offshore Patrol Vehicles	Bangladesh	[2]—	[3]53 million each	8 million
HMS Aldernay					
HMS Anglesey					
HMS Lindisfarne					
HMS Guernsey					
HMS Sheffield	Type 22 Frigate	Chile	[2]—	[4]151 million	27 million
2003-04					
HMS Unseen	Upholder Class Submarine	Canada	[5]—	[5]—	[6]—
HMS Scylla	Leader Class Frigate	[7]—	[5]—	[5]—	
2004-05					
RFA Sir Geraint	Round Table Landing Ship Logistical	[8]—	[5]—	[5]—	300,000
2005-06					
HMS Marlborough	Type 23 Frigate	Chile	[2]—	[4]120 million	134 million
HMS Norfolk				[4]142 million	
HMS Grafton				[4]79 million	
2006-07					
HMS Sandown	Sandown Class Mine Hunter	Estonia	[2]—	[3]53 million each	32 million
HMS Inverness					

	Type	Country	Service cost	Original cost (£)	Sale price (£)
HMS Bridport					

[1] Records not kept beyond point of sale.
[2] This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[3] Information concerning original cost is not held. Average cost has been estimated at 2007 prices and includes Government furnished equipment.
[4] Original cost of vessels not held. Original build cost provided but does not include other costs such as Ministry supplied material and equipment.
[5] No records held.
[6] Leased to Canada in 1998, with an option to purchase, which was exercised in 2003. It is impossible to calculate exact value for this submarine as lease covered four submarines, remaining three still under lease. Total value of lease is Canadian $360 million for all four submarines.
[7] Sunk as artificial reef.
[8] Records not kept beyond point of sale—ultimately dismantled in Pakistan.

These figures are rounded and those in the "sale price" column reflect the total sales revenue.

It is standard practice for sales of surplus warships to foreign Governments to include a package of modernisation and regeneration work provided by industry. It is not possible to provide figures relating to industry costs or the subsequent detailed financial returns to the UK defence budget and British taxpayer, without incurring disproportionate costs. Moreover, any such figures would be commercially sensitive, and could not be released.

In many cases the only alternative to a sale of these surplus warships would have been recycling, potentially at a cost to the British taxpayer. The benefits of these sales extend beyond the capital return, as they provide a defence diplomacy impact and enhance British industrial participation. It is not possible to quantify these benefits; however, in each case, the sale represented the best available outcome.

Snow Queen Exercise

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of the last exercise Snow Queen was; and if he will make a statement. [137440]

Derek Twigg: Exercise "Snow Queen" used to be run in Germany with the objective of introducing soldiers to skiing. This exercise was discontinued over ten years ago and details of the costs incurred on the last occasion that it took place have not been retained. An adventurous training activity weekend undertaken by the wives and other female members based in Suffield, Canada in March this year, also titled "Exercise Snow Queen", was funded through the British Army Unit Suffield Wives' Club. All costs incurred by the Army were recovered from the participants.

Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the commitment to maintaining and deploying an eight-boat attack submarine fleet in the 2004 supplement to the 2003 Defence White Paper remains in place. [138524]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* As set out in the 2004 "Future Capabilities" supplement to the 2003 White Paper, by late 2008 our attack submarine fleet will consist of eight boats. Thereafter, the existing Swiftsure and Trafalgar class submarines will be progressively replaced by the new and more capable Astute class.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Teenage Boys: Literacy

11. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken to encourage teenage boys to read. [138964]

Jim Knight: Reading for pleasure is essential to improving children's chances of success.

The Boys into Books initiative I launched last week allows every state-funded secondary school with boys on roll to select 20 free books. The Reading Champions initiative provides a range of ideas and resources to encourage boys to read more by using the motivational power of reading role models.

Both initiatives support our wider programme to promote literacy, including the planned National Year of Reading in 2008.

Mandarin

12. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage the teaching of Mandarin at GCSE level. [138965]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority have recently consulted on which languages schools should teach to 11 to 14-year-olds. We expect them to advise that schools should be free to teach any major languages they choose from 2008. The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust provide support to over 80 schools already teaching Mandarin. We expect this number to rise when the new secondary curriculum is introduced.

Young Adults: Learning Difficulties

13. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on his Department's provision of resources for post-19 education for young adults with severe learning difficulties. [138966]

Phil Hope: For young people studying higher education courses there is comprehensive student support available. Disabled students' allowances (DSAs) help meet the additional costs arising from a disability, mental health condition or learning disability. Under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 we have a commitment to provide suitable facilities for learners in further education aged 19 onwards. In

2004-05 the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) provided almost £1.5 billion to support 640,000 post-16 learners of all ages with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

City Academies

14. **Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many academy schools are planned to be opened in the next 12 months. [138967]

Jim Knight: There are 47 academies already open. In September this year we plan to open another 36 academies, with up to a further 50 projected to open in September 2008.

Basic Skills Training

15. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he has had discussions with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions on co-ordinating basic skills training for the unemployed and other benefit claimants who would like to work. [138968]

Phil Hope: In March 2006 DfES and DWP Ministers agreed an approach for transferring responsibility for the planning and funding of basic skills training to the Learning and Skills Council as recommended by the National Employment Panel with the aim of improving quality and co-ordination of learning opportunities.

We are working across Government to develop a new programme for Basic Skills and Employability which will provide opportunities to improve their skills and move into sustainable employment

Further Education Funding

17. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on extending further education funding to support 17 to 19-year-olds. [138970]

Phil Hope: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply previously given today to my hon. Friend the Member for East Lothian (Anne Moffat).

Grammar Schools

David T[illegible]: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on the future of grammar schools. [138969]

Jim Knight: We have not discussed the future of grammar schools with local authorities recently but our position remains unchanged: we are not in favour of academic selection and do not wish to see it extended.

Child Care

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government are taking to ensure that there is sufficient quality child care available in local areas. [138971]

Beverley Hughes: From next April, every local authority will have a duty to secure sufficient child care for working parents in their area. They will be supported in doing so by the £3 billion the Government have made available between 2006 and 2008 to support the child care market and to develop 2,500 children's centres; and the further £3 billion invested each year in free early education for every three and four-year-old.

Adoption

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 662W, on adoption, what intensive targeted work has been carried out by his Department with local authorities to improve placement stability for children in care; and what assessment he has made of the effect of this work. [138972]

Beverley Hughes: Too often, children who stay in care long-term are affected by numerous changes of carer, which impacts on their security and wellbeing, their ability to make and maintain friendships, and their schooling, which is often disrupted as a result. The Department appointed a small team of independent consultants—all former senior managers in social services—to work with 34 local authorities who had a significant contribution to make to the department's PSA target on improving stability for children in long-term care. Each local authority received five days' free consultancy to help them develop their own action plans to improve stability. Each authority is also being encouraged to share their learning with others in the same region, and materials are being developed to facilitate this. Telephone consultancy was also offered to 50 more local authorities, if they wished to accept it. The work ended in March this year, and it is therefore too soon to identify the impact it has had on performance.

Children: Armed Forces

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the transfer of the *(a)* records and *(b)* special needs statements of service children with high mobility; and if he will make a statement. [138794]

Mr. Dhanda: Under The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005, when any pupil moves from one school to another the 'old' school must transfer the pupil's common transfer file and education record within 15 school days of the child ceasing to be registered at the school. Where a pupil has special educational needs (SEN) the common transfer file will include the type of special educational provision that is being made.

For children with SEN statements who move between local authority areas there is a statutory process, set out in the SEN Code of Practice, for the old authority to transfer the statement to the new authority. The new authority must tell the parents within six weeks of the date of transfer when they will review the statement and whether they propose to reassess the child. Until such time as the new authority

amends the statement they are under a duty to arrange the special educational provision set out on the statement.

A new forum, the Service Children's Education Forum, has been established, with representatives from this Department, the devolved administrations and the Ministry of Defence, to examine difficulties faced by Service children as they move in, or between, the different education authorities of the UK and between the UK and overseas. The forum is exploring a number of strands of work including those of mobility and continuity of SEN support. A Mitigating Mobility project led by the Service Children's Education Agency is producing best practice guidance and the Service Children in State Schools Forum—an advisory group of schools in England with a high proportion of Service children—is contributing to this (and associated) work.

Education Maintenance Allowance

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people in Easington constituency received *(a)* £30, *(b)* £20 and *(c)* £10 in education maintenance allowance in each of the last three years. [135861]

Bill Rammell: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the DfES and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 15 May 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked:

"How many young people in Easington constituency have received *(a)* £30, *(b)* £20 and *(c)* £10 in educational maintenance allowance in each of the last three years."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received education maintenance allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The following table shows EMA take-up data split by payment band for Durham local authority area during each academic year since the scheme's inception.

Take-up of EMA in each academic year

	Durham LA			
	£30	*£20*	*£10*	*Total*
2004/05	1,838	271	336	2,445
2005/06	3,438	472	458	4,368
2006/07	4,641	574	554	5,769

I hope this information is useful and addresses your question.

Employment Schemes

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many starts on the Entry 2 Employment programme were contracted between the Learning and Skills Council and providers in each county in England for each of the last four years; how many starts there were in each county in each year; and what the percentage difference is between the two figures in each case; [131647]

(2) when he will reply to Question 131647, on the Entry 2 Employment programme, tabled by the hon. Member for Cheltenham on 29 March 2007. [138729]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* Data on Entry2Employment programme participants are collected on the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The Entry2Employment programme was introduced in the work-based learning ILR collection for the first time in 2002/03 and figures are presented from that time.

The following table shows the number of starts on the Entry2Employment programme in each local Learning and Skills Council area—these data are not currently available by county.

We are unable to provide figures on the number of starts contracted between LSC and providers, and the difference between the number of actual and contracted starts, because data on contracted starts are not collected. Contracts are for places rather than starts; a provider may be contracted to fill 30 places but these 30 places may be filled by 70 or more young people during the year.

Volume of E2E starts by local LSC area

	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Derbyshire	1,510	1,110	1,610
Nottinghamshire	1,580	830	920
Lincolnshire and Rutland	680	530	470
Leicestershire	720	520	800
Northamptonshire	870	620	680
Norfolk	950	550	700
Cambridgeshire	550	520	580
Suffolk	610	460	570
Bedfordshire and Luton	530	510	540
Hertfordshire	800	640	710
Essex	1,730	1,300	1,550
London - North	850	820	740
London - West	780	640	650
London - Central	2,340	1,950	1,910
London - East	1,820	1,690	1,760
London - South	1,370	1,000	1,010
Northumberland	420	470	420
Tyne and Wear	2,410	2,260	1,840
County Durham	880	770	780
Tees Valley	1,360	1,390	1,300
Cumbria	860	660	720
Lancashire	2,100	1,940	1,840
Greater Merseyside	3,980	3,300	3,090
Greater Manchester	3,540	3,300	3,290
Cheshire and Warrington	580	520	520
Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire	1,040	890	910
Berkshire	320	350	350
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1,500	1,560	1,560
Surrey	270	330	320
Sussex	650	920	550
Kent and Medway	1,210	1,210	1,320
Devon and Cornwall	1,600	1,020	1,170
Somerset	450	340	290

Volume of E2E starts by local LSC area

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole	600	530	540
West of England	980	1,050	960
Wiltshire and Swindon	380	380	310
Gloucestershire	1,050	740	590
Shropshire	910	670	550
Staffordshire	1,510	1,520	1,240
The Black Country	1,960	1,680	1,240
Birmingham and Solihull	1,880	1,880	1,770
Herefordshire and Worcestershire	610	540	550
Coventry and Warwickshire	1,340	930	880
North Yorkshire	440	320	260
West Yorkshire	3,720	2,780	2,700
South Yorkshire	2,070	1,700	1,610
Humberside	1,390	1,230	1,380
England	59,680	50,830	50,030

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Further Education

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many 16 to 18-year-olds were in *(a)* full-time education and *(b)* work-based learning in each year between 1997 and 2006 in each local education authority. [130989]

Bill Rammell: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

GCSEs

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of pupils in maintained schools achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE, including English and mathematics, but excluding both *(a)* equivalents and *(b)* applied double GCSE awards, in 2006. [114673]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 January 2007]:* Revised 2006 figures show that 42.6 per cent. of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools achieved five or more A*-C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE only. 43.4 per cent. of pupils in maintained schools achieved five or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent, including English and mathematics excluding applied double GCSE awards.

Nurseries: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if the Minister responsible for the 2006 code of conduct for nurseries will visit Kettering constituency to discuss its impact on local nursery provision. [139092]

Beverley Hughes: My colleagues and I regularly meet representatives of a range of national and local stakeholders with an interest in the free early education entitlement and other childcare issues.

The current code of practice was introduced in April 2006, following a full consultation with interested parties and sets out key principles by which local authorities plan the delivery of the free entitlement in their area in accordance with local circumstances and market dynamics.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what guidance his Department has given to local education authorities on the topslicing of the nursery education grant to nursery providers; and if he will make a statement; [138677]

(2) what evidence his Department has considered on the percentage value of the nursery education grant which local education authorities are passing to providers; and if he will make a statement. [138678]

Beverley Hughes: We do not provide guidance to local authorities on 'topslicing' nursery education funding. Funding for the free entitlement to early education for three and four-year-olds is provided to local authorities through the dedicated schools grant (DSG), alongside funding for all pre-16 learning. Local authorities—in consultation with their school forums—are responsible for deciding how best to apply their total school and early years funding across all age groups and between different types of provider, based on an assessment of local circumstances.

The Schools, Early Years and 14-16 Funding consultation which ends on 1 June sets out a number of proposals for changes to the way the early years funding system operates. As part of our consideration of these options and to assess their impact, the Department is developing a more comprehensive evidence base of current practice around the country. We asked all authorities to complete a questionnaire, by 18 May 2007, setting out how they allocate and distribute free entitlement funding to maintained schools and to private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers. We are also working with authorities to produce estimates of the level of funding allocated to early years in each local authority and its distribution between the PVI and maintained sectors in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

We intend to collate and publish both the questionnaire responses and the levels of funding in each local authority so that authorities can benchmark their approaches to funding the free entitlement.

Schools: Health

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the PA Consulting review of the Healthy Schools programme; [138848]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of schools which are participating in the National Healthy Schools programme; what proportion of them have achieved National Healthy School status; and if he will make a statement. [138850]

Mr. Dhanda: The PA Consulting review of the National Healthy Schools programme was a short exercise conducted for internal purposes, and to help steer our planned three-year research into the impact of the programme on promoting healthier lifestyle in schools. We do plan to place a copy of the review in the House of Commons Library in the coming month.

From September 2005, we had incorporated a more rigorous approach to the National Healthy Schools programme. Schools will have to meet criteria in all four core themes to satisfy the requirements of National Healthy Schools Status.

As at 21 May 2007, 20,256 (88.8 per cent.) schools are participating in the programme with 7,307 (32.3 per cent.) schools having achieved National Healthy schools status.

Science: Higher Education

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils from the maintained sector applied to study *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biochemistry, *(d)* psychology and *(e)* sports sciences at (i) a Russell Group university and (ii) other universities in each of the last five years. [138117]

Bill Rammell: The available information is shown in the table. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to Higher Education Institutions.

Applications from[1] UK domiciled pupils at maintained[2] sector Institutions to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[3] Institutions in the UK by subject of study year of entry 2002 to 2006

	Year of Entry				
Applications for :	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	7,096	7,069	6,439	7,028	7,664
Non-Russell Group Institutions[3]	5,746	3,929	5,024	5,765	5,681
Total	72,842	72,998	11,463	72,793	73,345
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	5,621	5,641	5,762	7,149	7,813
Non-Russell Group Institutions[3]	7,302	6,898	7,361	7,153	7,353
Total	72,923	72,539	73,723	74,302	75,766
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[4]					
at Russell Group Institutions	4,823	4,711	4,465	4,658	4,109
Non-Russell Group Institutions[3]	3,758	3,810	3,987	4,197	4,039
Total	8,587	8,527	8,452	8,855	8,748
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	15,392	16,641	15,535	15,540	14,937
Non-Russell Group Institutions[3]	29,795	32,367	32,542	36,174	39,626
Total	30,638	33,808	33,946	37,677	47,060
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	843	1,441	1,404	1,497	1,434
Non-Russell Group Institutions[3]	29,795	32,367	32,542	36,174	39,626
Total	30,638	33,808	33,946	37,677	47,060

[1] Applicants to UCAS can submit up to six applications, in this table students have been counted once for each application they submit.
[2] Maintained sector institutions are Comprehensive Schools, Further/Higher Education Institutions, Grammar Schools, Sixth Form Centres, Sixth Form Colleges, Other Maintained Institutions and Other Institutions.
[3] Includes all other HE and FE institutions covered by the UCAS application system, other than Russell-Group institutions.
[4] Subject figures for Biochemistry can only be displayed as the overall group Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Train to Gain Programme: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many businesses in Copeland have accessed the Train to Gain service since its launch. [133482]

Phil Hope: Train to Gain is an ongoing service and as such performance is updated on a regular basis. Detailed operational information is not held centrally by the Department but is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC); Mark Haysom as the LSC chief executive has written directly to my hon. Friend. A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 15 May 2007

I am writing in response to your recent parliamentary question about how many businesses in Copeland have accessed the Train to Gain service since its launch.

There have been 25 businesses that have accessed the Skills Brokerage Service in and around Copeland. These contacts are sorted by postcode and the 25 is made up of

CA12 = 7

CA13 = 5

CA14 = 10

CA28 = 3

I hope this response is helpful to you.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds were not in education, employment and training in each year since the establishment of the Connexions service. [138163]

Bill Rammell: The following table gives the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England in each

year since the Connexions service was established in 2001 where figures are available.

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)

End of calendar year	*Percentage*
2001	10
2002	10
2003	10
2004	10
2005 (provisional)	11

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people in London are not in education, employment or training; what steps are being taken to reduce this number; and if he will make a statement. [110609]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

There were 1,076,350 people of working age who were not in employment, education or training in the London Government office region in October to December 2006. The total number of people on out of work benefits in London has fallen by 106,300 since 1997.

Some of these people will have chosen not to be in employment or education. However, for the rest, we have a range of policies on employment and education to provide them with opportunities.

To help us achieve our aim of reaching an 80 per cent. employment rate, we have set ourselves the aspiration of a million fewer people on incapacity benefits in a decade. The Welfare Reform Bill enabling us to achieve this has just passed through Parliament.

We will be rolling out our successful Pathways to Work across the capital in 2008, and will also shortly begin testing our new City Strategy which will focus on those areas where benefit receipt, social exclusion and poverty are most concentrated. Two of the pathfinder areas for the strategy are in London.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Electricity

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects the UK is involved in to develop the electricity supply in Africa; and what studies he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on carbon emissions from increasing electricity use in Africa. [138863]

Hilary Benn: At the Gleneagles summit in 2005, the UK secured G8 agreement that the World Bank should lead on establishing a new clean energy investment framework (CEIF), which would operate as part of the international financing system. The aim of this framework is to increase public and private sector investment in cleaner energy in developing countries.

The World Bank's action plan for the CEIF has three main parts, one of which is to increase energy access in Africa. This includes giving greater attention to Africa's need for increased electricity generation, transmission and household electrification.

The World Bank is starting discussions with some African governments about how the action plan can be implemented, aimed at improving access by households to modern energy services.

The UK has committed over £15 million to the CEIF so far, including £3 million for technical support in developing the CEIF and supporting discussions in developing countries. We will consider with the World Bank what additional support may be needed in particular countries.

Africa's energy-related carbon emissions are very small compared to industrialised regions and likely to remain so in the foreseeable future. We have not commissioned or evaluated the carbon emissions from increasing electricity use in Africa, although some data and predictions are compiled by the International Energy Agency.

Africa: Teachers and Doctors

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average cost is of training *(a)* local and *(b)* UK-based (i) teachers and (ii) doctors to work in developing African countries. [138940]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 23 May 2007]*: The average costs for training doctors and teachers in Africa are not collected by the main international databases (e.g. UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring report) due to the difficulty in tracking the wide variety of different training programmes and initiatives across Africa as well as poor data quality.

However, the World Health Organization estimated in 2006 that globally, health budgets will have to increase by at least US$10 per person per year by 2025, to educate and pay the salaries of the four million health workers needed in the 57 countries with severe shortages. Most of these countries are in Sub-Saharan Africa.

According to the UK Department for Health, the cost of training a doctor to full registration including the first year of working in the NHS is between £200,000 and £250,000. This does not include costs of postgraduate training as this is far highly variable and it is difficult to arrive at a meaningful average.

According to the UK Department for Education and Skills—Training and Development Agency (TDA) the cost of training a teacher in the UK can range from £4,500 to £19,000 with an average cost of approximately £12,000. It should be noted that this average uses the total funds paid by the TDA for an academic year and the total number of registered teachers. The figure is therefore only indicative as there are numerous different routes into teaching within the UK.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid was allocated to Burma in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, broken down by main budget heading; and what conditions were attached to such aid. [138509]

Mr. Thomas: In 2005-06 DFID aid to Burma was £6.4 million, of which:

£4.5 million was on HIV/AIDS, Communicable Diseases and Basic Health Care;

£0.6 million was for Food Security and Rural Livelihoods;

£1.0 million was for Internally Displaced People and Refugees;

£60,000 was for Democracy and Human Rights.

2006-07 official figures are not yet available. The budget for DFID aid to Burma was £8.0 million, of which:

£4.3 million was on HIV/AIDS, Communicable Diseases and Basic Health Care;

£1.2 million was for Food Security and Rural Livelihoods;

£1.1 million was for Internally Displaced People and Refugees;

£1.4 million was on Education;

£70,000 was for Democracy and Human Rights.

DFID has recently approved a programme of £3 million over three years specifically to support work on democratic change at the local level. The programme will start during 2007-08.

The conditions which European Union member states have agreed to apply to their aid is defined by the European Union Common Position. Article 3, which states that:

"Non-humanitarian aid or development programmes shall be suspended. Exceptions shall be made for projects and programmes in support of:

(a) human rights, democracy, good governance, conflict prevention and building the capacity of civil society;

(b) health and education, poverty alleviation and in particular the provision of basic needs and livelihoods for the poorest and most vulnerable populations;

(c) environmental protection and, in particular, programmes addressing the problem of non-sustainable, excessive logging resulting in deforestation.

The projects and programmes should be implemented through UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, and through decentralised cooperation with local civilian administrations. In this context, the European Union will continue to engage with the government of Burma over its responsibility to make greater efforts to attain the UN millennium development goals.

Projects and programmes should, as far as possible, be defined, monitored, run and evaluated in consultation with civil society and all democratic groups, including the National League for Democracy."

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Overseas Aid

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the Government gave directly to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in each of the last 10 years. [138910]

Hilary Benn: The Government provided debt relief to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) every year between 1996-97 and 2005-06, as shown in the following table.

Debt relief from the British Government to the Government of the DRC

	£
1996-97	1,106,000
1997-98	1,089,000
1998-99	994,000
1999-2000	810,000
2000-01	3,656,000
2001-02	4,704,000
2002-03	2,715,000
2003-04	131,550,976
2004-05	7,377,490
2005-06	390,866

In the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided financial aid of £500,000 per year to the DRC Ministry of Plan for the preparation of the Government of the DRC's poverty reduction strategy. In 2006-07, DFID committed £324,225 of financial aid to the DRC Ministry of Plan to enable it to carry out a demographic and health survey.

This aid provided by DFID directly to the Government of the DRC represents a very small fraction of DFID's total bilateral aid to the DRC, which totalled £29.2 million in 2004-05 and £58.8 million in 2005-06.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Tree Felling

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* Portugal, *(b)* Germany and *(c)* Belgium on logging concessions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo held by companies with headquarters based in those countries. [138866]

Hilary Benn: I have not held specific discussions with my counterparts in Portugal, Germany and Belgium on logging concessions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) held by companies with headquarters in those countries. However, DFID is working closely with international partners—including Germany and Belgium—to promote sustainable forest use and reduce deforestation in countries like the DRC.

The German Government have put the reduction of deforestation, to curb carbon emissions, conserve biodiversity, and promote sustainable forest management, on the agenda for the forthcoming G8 summit. The UK strongly supports this initiative and will play a constructive role in agreeing outcomes at the summit. Earlier this year, the Belgian Government, in collaboration with the UK and other partners, hosted an international conference on the sustainable management of forests in the DRC. At this conference, the UK announced a $500,000 contribution to a Multi-Donor Trust Fund to improve forest governance and help promote sustainable forest management in the DRC.

The UK supports the maintenance of the moratorium on the allocation of new logging concessions in the DRC and the review that is currently being carried out of the legality of existing concessions. When I met the President of the DRC, Joseph Kabila, in Kinshasa in April 2007, I stressed the importance of forests as a resource for the people of the DRC. I asked whether logging concessions found to be illegal by the Legal Review would be revoked, and President Kabila confirmed that they would.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138455]

Mr. Thomas: A copy of the document entitled "Current Contracts as at May 2007", which gives details of the agencies and consultants and the current values of contracts issued by the Department for International Development (DFID), has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Details of contracts awarded are published on the DFID website. The contract titles on the report reflect the type of activity carried out. The report does not include low value contracts issued by DFID's overseas offices, of which there are no consolidated central records. To produce a list of these contracts would incur disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Sanitation

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of developing water and sanitation projects in developing countries through the privatisation of those systems. [138544]

Hilary Benn: DFID has funded a number of studies into how private sector participation might support poor people and help them access basic services, all of which draw on extensive external research. These include the study by WELL, the network of resource centres at Loughborough university, into private sector participation and its impact in improving affordable access to water and sanitation for the poor in developing countries.

The track record of the private sector in delivering water in developing countries has been mixed—and it is important that lessons are learnt along the way. In Cochabamba, Bolivia, the failure of private sector water provision led to rioting and the cancellation of the contract with the private provider. In Mozambique, on the other hand, reforms which began in 1994 have ushered in a new era with the introduction of private sector management, cost recovery tariffs and better regulation. A new public-private partnership, whereby assets remain state owned but operations are privately managed, has helped about 70 per cent. of the urban population of Mozambique benefit from better water supply and improved sanitation.

In Senegal, private sector involvement since 1995 has helped about 1.6 million people living in Dakar and secondary cities to gain access to safe water. An innovative public-private partnership has helped make over 140,000 new connections for poor families at subsidized rates, and household water connections reached 76 per cent. of the population by 2006. Senegal's level of connection to urban water services is now the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. Sanitation also improved in urban areas, with 830,000 people getting access to sewerage connections or new toilets and latrines. Our conclusion is to support what works—and what works varies from country to country and region to region.

Through our support of the multi-donor Public Private Initiative Advisory Facility (PPIAF), we helped fund the publication of "Improving Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Utilities in Developing Countries: Drawing the Lessons of the Last Decade of Private Sector Participation and Expanding its Scope". This draws on lessons from a decade of water projects with private participation. It consolidates the wealth of material available into a comprehensive paper, and provides a basis for building consensus with stakeholders.

However, we agree with the conclusions of the United Nations' recent Human Development Report that the criterion for assessing policy should not be whether it is public or private but what its effect is on the poor. These studies are vitally important, but a blanket approach applied to all assessments does not work because circumstances vary greatly from region to region and country to country and we have to respond to the specifics of each request.

The public sector continues to play the leading role in providing water and sanitation throughout the world. Most of DFID's aid—about 95 per cent. of our bilateral country programme expenditure on water and sanitation—supports the delivery of water and sanitation through governments, and not-for-profit or humanitarian agencies.

Our bilateral support for international private sector participation in the water and sanitation sector has been limited, often focused on helping developing country governments improve regulation for the benefit of poor people. One example where we were asked to help was in Ghana, where we supported a national assessment to examine the regulation of the sector and make recommendations about how services can work better for poor people.

EC Aid

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the effectiveness of money spent through the European Communities Development Programme is *(a)* monitored and *(b)* audited; and if he will make a statement. [138928]

Mr. Thomas: The EC development programme includes funding through the European Development Fund, the Development Co-operation Instrument and the European Neighbourhood Instrument. The effectiveness of the development programme is assessed at many levels.

There are four main opportunities to monitor and/or audit the funds:

(a) Management Committees—Management Committees exist for all of the main development instruments. They provide member states with oversight and approval of major spending decisions, including country strategy papers and associated annual action plans. Evaluation reports, including on the mid-term and end of term reviews of country programmes, are presented to member states at these committees for discussion and approval. These documents are also shared with the European Parliament.

(b) Results orientated monitoring—the Commission has developed a results orientated monitoring (ROM) process. This system is based on regular onsite assessments by independent experts of ongoing projects and programmes. The projects/

programmes evaluated are assessed against criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

(c) Annual report on the European Community's Development Policy and Implementation of External Assistance—this is published by the Commission in the summer of each year. It includes the results of the ROM process as well as detail on the breakdown of financial assistance by sector, region and type of aid (for example, project or budgetary support). It also provides information on commitment and disbursement levels. The annual report is presented to EU member states and the European Parliament for discussion and adoption.

(d) Annual auditing of EU Budget—The EU's annual accounts and resource management are overseen by its external auditor, the European Court of Auditors. The Court of Auditors prepares an annual report for the Council and the European Parliament. The court's main task is to conduct an external, independent audit of the European Communities' annual accounts, including those of the development co-operation programme. Finally, the Court prepares 'special reports' which provide the findings of audits covering specific areas of EC work, such as that on the Environment in Development Co-operation in 2006.

World Bank

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if the UK Government will nominate a candidate for the World Bank Presidency; and if he will make a statement. [139040]

Hilary Benn: The Government will work with other member countries of the World Bank to identify and select the best candidate for the job.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Imports

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether ruminants arrived in Dover by ferry from Calais on 5 May 2007. [138303]

Mr. Bradshaw: Animal Health have found no record of ruminant animals being imported from Calais via Dover on 5 May 2007.

Cattle: Exports

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings he has held with *(a)* animal welfare organisations and *(b)* the agricultural industry on the export of live young calves. [138782]

Mr. Bradshaw: So far this year, I have met representatives of both Compassion in World Farming and Kent Action Against Live Exports. My officials continue to communicate with welfare and industry bodies through meetings, correspondence and telephone calls on a regular basis.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the conditions experienced by live young calves which are exported; and if he will make a statement. [138785]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the research recently commissioned by DEFRA on the conditions experienced by live calves (and other animals) during transport.

Research	*Timescale*
Long distance road transport of farm animals	1 April 1997 to 1 March 2002
Study to investigate the space above the head and shoulders of pigs and cattle when standing during transport	1 May to 1 October 2003
To understand and alleviate physiological stress during transportation of livestock (this project is specific to calves)	1 April 1997 to 1 March 2002
Development of telemetry systems for the remote monitoring of physiological signals in livestock	1 October 1999 to 1 September 2002
Road transport of farm animals in hot climates	1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005
Human factors affecting the welfare of animals during transport	1 April 2002 to 31 August 2005
Effect of driver behaviour on the behaviour of cattle and pigs in transit	1 April 2005 to 30 May 2007
Animal welfare in livestock trailers and optimisation of ventilation	1 May 2004 to 30 September 2007

DEFRA continually reviews and appraises its research programme. Evaluation takes place before, during and at the end of each research project. In addition, a review of research and development programmes is undertaken every five years with interested parties, including welfare groups, industry and consumer groups. A review of the Animal Welfare at Transport and Markets programme was held at the end of 2006. The output from this review will be made available on the DEFRA website soon. Our research findings help to provide a sound scientific basis on which to formulate our policy on the transport of live animals.

Climate Change: Electricity Generation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contribution United Kingdom officials or scientists made to the ad hoc working group on Mitigation potentials of policies, measures and technologies of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change, held in Bonn on 15 to 18 May; and whether any specific electricity generation technology was promoted by the United Kingdom. [138434]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* UK officials played an active part in the European Union's (EU) preparations for the Bonn United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Ad-hoc Working Group meeting. During the meeting, the EU presented information on the mitigation potential of the EU as a whole and not as individual member states. In the preparations, the UK did not promote any specific electricity generation technology. The EU's submissions and presentations can be found on the UNFCCC website at:

www.unfccc.int.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress he

is making in involving *(a)* G8 countries, *(b)* EU countries and *(c)* other major developing countries in talks on tackling the effects of climate change. [137649]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 18 May 2007]*: We are making progress, but there is still a long way to go. The spring European Council showed significant developments at the European level and real leadership by the EU. The EU committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2020 as part of an international agreement and agreed an independent commitment to cut emissions by at least 20 per cent.

In the G8, we are continuing to work with the German presidency to achieve our climate change objectives, which we began to set out at Gleneagles in 2005. We are aiming for the Heiligendamm summit in June to send a clear signal to the UN climate change conference in Bali in December on the need to launch negotiations on a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement, to be completed by 2009.

In parallel, we are working, both bilaterally and through the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change (UNFCCC), to engage countries in order to raise the level of global ambition to respond to the threat of global warming, as set out in the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change. For example, we are working with South Africa to explore what a post-2012 agreement could look like.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in what joint projects his Department is involved with its Chinese counterpart in the area of climate change mitigation and sustainable development. [138506]

Ian Pearson: A key international objective for the UK is to ensure that Chinese engagement helps enhance efforts towards making the transition to a sustainable low carbon economy globally as well as shaping an effective international regime to tackle climate change.

In order to do this we are engaged with China through a number of channels including:

(i) The sustainable development dialogue(SDD). Examples of joint working, include a workshop on sustainable consumption and production, establishment of a joint working group on sustainable forestry, discussions with the Chinese Ministry of Construction on sustainable urban development and a project at provincial level to share the UK's experience on waste management and resource efficiency.

(ii) The UK-China working group on climate change. This is helping by feeding into discussions and activities under the Gleneagles Dialogue, the EU-China Partnership on climate change and the United Nations framework convention on climate change.

(iii) The near-zero emissions coal (nZEC) project which aims to demonstrate coal fired power generation with carbon dioxide capture and storage technology in China by 2020.

(iv) The UK is working with China on a bilateral project on climate change impacts. It has already gone some way towards revealing the effect of climate change on Chinese agriculture;

(v) The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), a multi-country initiative that covers China, India, the whole G7, Australia, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa. REEEP delivers projects on the ground that demonstrate the potential for reform of energy policy and financing frameworks in a sustainable way.

Construction: Sustainable Development

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and *(c)* the Director of the Office of Government Commerce on sustainable procurement in the building construction sector. [136407]

Ian Pearson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and DEFRA Ministers have held discussions with many colleagues from other Departments, including DTI, CLG and OGC, on topics such as sustainable procurement in the building construction sector, as part of the wider discussions on combating climate change.

Desalination

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water desalination plants are *(a)* in operation, *(b)* under construction and *(c)* planned in England; and what the (i) location and (ii) company involved is in each case. [137848]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1959W. Thames Water's appeal against refusal of planning permission for a proposed desalination plant in the Thames estuary was the subject of a public inquiry in 2006 and the decision on the appeal is currently before the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. After piloting a desalination plant, South East Water has decided not to pursue desalination yet as a solution for delivering extra water at peak times.

Drinking Water Inspectorate: Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many prosecutions brought by the Drinking Water Inspectorate resulted in *(a)* convictions and *(b)* custodial sentences in each year since 1995; [137874]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* enforcement notices were brought by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (i) in total and (ii) in each region in each year since 1995. [137892]

Ian Pearson: Prosecutions are initiated against a company, not an individual. Convictions arise when a company is found guilty of the criminal offence of supplying water unfit for human consumption.

The following table shows the number of prosecutions and cautions of water companies brought by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) between 1995 and 2006. The sum total is 38 prosecutions and 23 cautions of companies supplying water in England and Wales.

	Prosecutions	*Cautions*
1995	2	1
1996	1	0

	Prosecutions	Cautions
1997	4	0
1998	9	2
1999	9	8
2000	5	3
2001	3	2
2002	1	2
2003	0	2
2004	1	1
2005	0	2
2006	3	0

The legal enforcement process is initiated by the DWI with the issue of a "minded to enforce" notice to which the water company responds. The response often involves the provision of a legally binding undertaking to carry out work to remedy the matter, thereby staying the requirement for an enforcement order to be issued.

Since 1995, this process has been used on over 3,000 occasions. Details of the companies involved are provided in the Chief Inspector's annual Drinking Water reports.

Drinking Water: Chemicals

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much was spent on removing *(a)* pesticides and *(b)* nitrates from drinking water supplies in each of the last five years; [137862]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of removing *(a)* pesticides and *(b)* nitrates from drinking water supplies in each year since 2000. [137893]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. Companies report to Ofwat each year in their June return on their expenditure in various categories.

Over the five years to 2005-06, companies reported additional capital expenditure of £49 million on reducing pesticides levels and £75 million on reducing nitrate levels in the public water supply (in 2005-06 prices inflated using the retail price index). This is shown for each year since 2000 in the following table.

	£ million	
	Pesticides	Nitrates
2001-02	8	6
2002-03	6	13
2003-04	3	17
2004-05	1	4
2005-06	31	35

This is the additional capital expenditure on new assets. As part of their base expenditure, companies also maintain the assets installed previously to reduce pesticides and nitrates levels, and also incur the costs of operating these water treatment plants. Ofwat does not collect this information separately.

Ofwat publishes a summary of its assumptions when setting price limits for each investment period. For 2000-05, the assumed need for capital investment to address exceptional problems of deteriorating raw water quality, the majority of which was for reducing pesticides and nitrate level, was £200 million (in 2005-06 prices, inflated using the construction outputs price index). There were changes agreed to this programme with the Drinking Water Inspectorate during the investment period to reflect changes in the risks of failure to meet drinking water standards.

For 2005-10, Ofwat assumed additional capital expenditure for reducing pesticides levels of £86 million and nitrate levels of £340 million (2005-06 prices, inflated using the construction outputs price index) along with associated operating costs of £8 million each year. These are the additional costs of new treatment or blending plant. The maintenance and operating costs of existing treatment plant are included in the base service provided by the water companies.

EC Environmental Policy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which European Environmental Directives have been *(a)* agreed and *(b)* published since 1 January 2006; and what the date or planned date of transposition is of each. [137863]

Ian Pearson: Between 1 January 2006 and 30 April 2007, 10 European Union (EU) directives for which my Department has responsibility for implementation were adopted. These are shown in the following table.

Directive number	Directive name	Date UK transposition completed/or expected to be completed
2006/007/EC	Bathing water quality	March 2008
2006/011/EC	Pollution caused by dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the community (codified version)	n/a
2006/012/EC	Waste (codified version)	n/a
2006/032/EC	Energy end-use efficiency and energy services	May 2008
2006/044/EC	Quality of Fresh Waters Needing Protection or Improvement in Order to Support Fish Life (codified version)	n/a
2006/113/EC	Quality required of shellfish waters (codified version)	n/a
2006/118/EC	On the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration	January 2009
2006/122/EC	Relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (perfluorooctane sulfonates)	December 2007
2006/139/EC	Restrictions on the marketing and use of arsenic compounds	June 2007
2007/002/EC	Establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)	May 2009

I am placing in the Library of the House a list which itemises the directives adopted together with:

(a) the EU deadline for transposition into domestic legislation.

(b) where, appropriate, the final or expected United Kingdom transposition date.

Details of all Directives in force can be found on the Eur-Lex database available on the EU's website.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the extent of the reduction in *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU emissions which will result from the first phase of the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme. [137524]

Ian Pearson: The approved UK National Allocation Plan (NAP) for Phase I (2005-07) of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme is set to deliver carbon dioxide emissions savings of around 65 million tonnes (roughly 8 per cent.) below the projected business-as-usual emissions of the installations covered by the scheme during phase I. The rationale behind emission trading is to ensure that the emission reductions take place where the cost of the reduction is lowest, thus lowering the overall costs of tackling climate change. The aforementioned emission reductions referred to may not, therefore, all take place in the UK.

As phase I has not yet finished, it is difficult to quantify what the overall emission reductions will be across the EU. A study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and others has suggested that emission reductions (abatement) across the EU resulting from the implementation of EU ETS in 2005 could be somewhere in the region of 50MtCO_2 to 200MtCO_2. A survey by Point Carbon showed that about two-thirds of the 800 or so EU ETS participants who responded stated they had initiated internal abatement projects as a result of the EU ETS. Another survey for the European Commission conducted by McKinsey and Ecofys also found that the EU ETS is impacting on corporate behaviour. Based on this scheme, CO_2 involves a real cost. About half the companies already 'price in' the value of CO_2 allowances and over 70 per cent. intend to do so in the future.

Floods

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Survey Association on flood prevention. [138691]

Ian Pearson: My Department has not held discussions with the Survey Association on flood prevention to date.

Fly-tipping: Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fly-tipping incidents were reported through the Flycapture database by each local authority in their most recent returns. [138255]

Mr. Bradshaw: As it is quite lengthy, I am arranging for copies of the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

Data for 2006-2007 have not yet been finalised, but will be available in the summer.

Data reflect the particular circumstances of the local authority area. As a result of Best Value Performance Indicator 199d on fly-tipping, local authorities are now being monitored for their performance in reducing overall incident numbers and increasing the amount of enforcement activity, year on year. Flycapture was always intended to be used as a management information tool to help target action, rather than to produce 'league tables'.

Grazing Land: Fences

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibilities farmers have to ensure that livestock are controlled with stockproof fences around their land. [138412]

Mr. Bradshaw: Farmers have a duty of care to protect the welfare of their livestock under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Additionally, there is legislation requiring farmers to control their animals. Section 155 of the Highways Act 1980 provides that where livestock are found straying or lying on or at the side of the highway, the owner is guilty of an offence and is liable for expenses incurred in any subsequent transportation and care for the livestock.

Section 4 of the Animals Act 1971 provides that where livestock stray onto private land, the owner of the livestock will be liable for any damage done by the livestock to the land or property, including expenses incurred if the owner of the land detains the livestock. In some circumstances the livestock may also be sold to cover such costs.

Mineral Waters

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the number of litres of bottled *(a)* sparkling and *(b)* still water consumed in the UK in each year since 2002; and what percentage was supplied in (i) plastic, (ii) glass and (iii) other materials. [137609]

Ian Pearson: The following table shows the estimated number of litres of mineral water consumed in the UK in each year since 2002.

April to March each year	*Total UK consumption of mineral water (million litres)*
2001-02	747
2002-03	793
2003-04	875
2004-05	950
2005-06	965

DEFRA does not collect statistics which distinguish between sparkling and still water or the way water is packaged.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the review of nitrate vulnerable zone designations to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [137859]

Ian Pearson: A review of Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) designations in England is nearly complete. It is our intention to publish national-level maps illustrating the conclusions of the review in the forthcoming consultation on amendments to the NVZ Action Programme.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms there are in nitrate vulnerable zones in England, broken down by region; and what the *(a)* size and *(b)* location is of each farm. [137860]

Ian Pearson: The Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) designated in 1996 and 2002 cover approximately 55 per cent. of England's land area. An estimate of the number of holdings located within these NVZs, broken down by region and size, is provided in the following table.

It is not possible to provide personal data (i.e. the size or location of each farm) due to issues of confidentiality.

	Size of holding (total farmed area in hectares)						
Region	*0*	*>0 to <5*	*5 to <20*	*20 to <50*	*50 to <100*	*100+*	*Total*
North East	118	270	164	144	163	243	1,102
North West	1,321	2,390	1,636	1,298	1,092	660	8,397
Yorkshire and Humber	1,434	3,561	2,239	1,471	1,368	1,919	11,992
East Midlands	2,531	4,607	3,389	2,538	2,056	3,271	18,392
West Midlands	2,605	4,905	3,673	2,493	1,920	1,795	17,391
Eastern	2,184	5,473	3,250	2,043	1,762	3,607	18,319
London	17	43	38	23	16	9	146
South East	1,556	3,311	2,675	1,611	1,054	1,912	12,119
South West	2,206	3,710	2,874	1,988	1,602	1,929	14,309
Total	13,972	28,270	19,938	13,609	11,033	15,345	102,167

It should be noted that the figures contained in the aforementioned table are estimates based upon the June Agricultural Census 2005 (DEFRA), which only seeks data from a proportion of holdings each year. In the Agricultural Census data the location of each holding is represented by a single point. If that point falls within the current NVZ boundary the area of the entire holding is included in these figures. If the point is outside the boundary no land is included.

Nitrous Oxide

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what monitoring the Government undertake of nitrous oxide levels in water supplies in England; and if he will make a statement. [137858]

Ian Pearson: Nitrous oxide is a gas, and as such it is not monitored for in drinking water. Water companies are required by law to test for nitrate and nitrite. The Drinking Water Inspectorate publishes the results of these tests annually.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the retail price of chicken meat products of the introduction of the EU chicken welfare rules in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [138927]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not easy to forecast what proportion of industry costs may be passed on to consumers, as this partly depends on market conditions. However, this issue will be considered as part of a final regulatory impact assessment.

Reservoirs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the water reservoirs which *(a)* have become operational in each year since 1990 and *(b)* are planned; and who the operating company is in each case. [137612]

Ian Pearson: The only major public water supply reservoir, owned by a water company, to become operational since 1990 is Severn Trent Water's Carsington reservoir in 1992.

Water companies identified the need for five new and three extended reservoirs in their 25-year water resource management plans prepared in 2004. Details are provided in the following tables.

New reservoirs

Company	*Scheme*	*Year*
Southern, Mid Kent	Broad Oak	2019
Folkestone and Dover South East Water	Clay Hill	2015
Portsmouth	Havant Thicket	2020
Thames	Abingdon	2020
Severn Trent	Lower Severn	2022

Extended reservoirs

Company	*Scheme*	*Year*
Southern, Mid Kent	Raise Bewl	2015
South East Water	Bray Enlargement	2008
Essex and Suffolk Water	Abberton	2014

Sewage: Rivers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency collects on discharges of sewage into rivers; which rivers are monitored; and what data are collected in each case. [137861]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA does not collect this information. In 2006, the Environment Agency monitored 10,258 sewage discharges to receiving waters in England and Wales. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), ammonia, suspended solids and pH were monitored routinely, along with other parameters presenting a risk to the environment.

The Environment Agency also monitored 6,180 river sites for water chemistry and 5,982 river sites for biology in 2006. This covered approximately 40,000 kilometres of river length in England and Wales. Monitoring at these sites included macro-invertebrates, dissolved oxygen, BOD, ammonia and nitrate.

Water Charges

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average monthly cost to consumers was of *(a)* water services and *(b)* sewerage services in each water supply area in 2005-06 (i) in total and (ii) for those who were (A) metered and (B) unmetered. [137896]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is the economic regulator for the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. In December 2004 it set price limits for the period 2005-10.

The information requested can be found in Ofwat's 'Water and sewerage charges 2006-07 report'. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Water Supply

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will introduce a requirement on water companies to submit an application for water scarcity status before seeking permission for any new reservoir capacity. [137610]

Ian Pearson: No. In their 25-year water resource management plans, water companies are expected to follow the twin-track approach of considering the need for new resources, such as reservoirs, in parallel with the full range of options for reducing demand. New resources should be developed only where the scope for managing demand is clearly insufficient or unjustified in terms of cost.

An application for water scarcity status would have to demonstrate that the measures proposed by the company, taking into account the water resources that are or could be made available, would be insufficient to address the deficiency of water resources.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* merits, *(b)* practicality and *(c)* costs of constructing a water grid to enable the transportation of large volumes of water over long distances. [137611]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 900W. The situation has not changed since then.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of water in each region was supplied from *(a)* watercourses, *(b)* aquifers, *(c)* reservoirs and *(d)* other sources in the last period for which figures are available; what change each figure represents from the previous period for which figures are available; and how demand is expected to change in future years. [138622]

Ian Pearson: The data in the following table are taken from the e-Digest of Environmental Statistics, published on the Department's website, and shows an average for the whole year of estimated abstractions expressed in daily amounts (mega litres per day). The data originate from the Environment Agency. Estimated actual abstractions differ from the maximum abstraction permissible under the terms of individual abstraction licences. The level of future abstractions will depend on the extent to which abstractors use their licensed capacity together with that abstracted under new licences granted.

Region	*2003*	*2004*	*Percentage change*
North West			
Non-tidal surface water	2794	2898	+3.7
Groundwater	342	315	-8.6
Tidal waters	6443	5792	-11 .2
North East			
Non-tidal surface water	5857	6215	+6.1
Groundwater	471	490	+4.0
Tidal waters	71	74	+4.2
Midlands			
Non-tidal surface water	4850	4664	-4.0
Groundwater	1119	1047	-6.9
Tidal waters	984	1092	+11.0
Anglian			
Non-tidal surface water	1558	1546	-0.8
Groundwater	1031	995	-3.6
Tidal waters	5249	5729	+9.1
Thames			
Non-tidal surface water	3225	3180	-1.4
Groundwater	1631	1562	-4.4
Tidal waters	1208	1208	0.0

Region	2003	2004	Percentage change
Southern			
Non-tidal surface water	1440	1401	-2.8
Ground water	1316	1260	-4.4
Tidal waters	5078	5453	+7.4
South West			
Non-tidal surface water	2859	3345	+17.0
Groundwater	565	559	-1.1
Tidal waters	2121	1643	-29.1

Non-tidal surface water includes reservoirs and river abstractions (watercourses).

Water Supply: Framework Directive

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations the Government has made to the European Commission on revisions to the water framework directive. [138617]

Ian Pearson: The European Commission has proposed an amendment to the EC water framework directive (WFD). This is part of a wider package to align certain existing directives with the new comitology decision, which introduced a new regulatory procedure with scrutiny. If adopted, the amendment would include the European Parliament in the scrutiny of decisions made by the Article 21 Committee of the WFD. The UK and the European Commission are engaged in ongoing negotiations about this amendment.

Negotiations are also continuing on the WFD daughter directive on priority substances, including proposals to amend Annex X of the WFD. Again, the UK and the European Commission are engaged in this process.

No other representations have been made by the UK Government on revisions to the WFD.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding the Government plan to make available for the physical restoration of water bodies to meet the objectives of the water framework directive. [138624]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA is consulting on what measures may be needed to deliver water framework directive (WFD) requirements for hydromorphological conditions in water bodies, including restoration work. The consultation closes on 28 May 2007 and papers are available on the DEFRA website.

The competent authority is not in a position to know whether physical restoration is needed to achieve good status (the default objective of the WFD) until detailed investigations have been carried out on the impact of morphological changes on the ecological status of individual water bodies.

Where physical restoration is required, the competent authority must determine whether the cost of this work is in proportion to the environmental improvement to be gained. As an alternative, the WFD provides for the application of different status objectives on the grounds of disproportionate cost. Economic tools for determining disproportionate cost are being developed through a collaborative research programme led by DEFRA and involving different parties affected by the WFD, including central government, regulators, industry and non-government organisations.

It is not possible to assess how much funding may be required for physical restoration of water bodies until the investigation of need and analysis of cost effectiveness has been completed for draft river basin management plans, which will be issued for consultation in 2008. When better estimates are available, the provision of funding will need to be considered in future spending reviews.

Water: Conservation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measures the Government are *(a)* taking and *(b)* considering to promote efficiency in the use of water; [137615]

(2) what steps he is taking to encourage water efficiency in the *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial sector. [137864]

Ian Pearson: The Government support a number of initiatives to promote water efficiency in the domestic and commercial sectors. The Water Industry Act 1991 mandates water companies in England and Wales to promote the efficient use of water to their customers. This can include the distribution of free water saving devices, free or subsidised supply pipe leak detection and repair, and free home or business water saving audits. The Water Services Regulation Authority (publicly known as Ofwat) monitors each company's actions annually and expects water companies to take a more active approach when supplies are under pressure.

Other measures include the establishment of the Water Saving Group, which I chair, including representatives from a range of stakeholder groups. The group aims to encourage the efficient use of water in households and to contribute to demand management in the long term.

To address water efficiency in new housing, Communities and Local Government (CLG) have introduced a code for sustainable homes (CSH). This sets out performance levels and standards, including minimum performance levels for water use.

In addition, DEFRA and CLG have recently consulted on regulatory options for minimum standards of water efficiency in new homes and commercial buildings. Responses to the consultation will be published in due course. CLG are also reviewing the sustainability of the existing building stock, including water use.

The Government also support a number of programmes to further sustainable water use by businesses. These include Envirowise and the enhanced capital allowance scheme for water efficient technologies.

Water: Availability and Consumption

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much water on average was *(a)* available to and *(b)* consumed by each person in England in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by (i) water company and (ii) region. [137613]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. It publishes information each year on estimates of average household consumption by company area, but not by region.

Ofwat also collects information on the amount of water available for use by all customers, but not for household customers alone.

The following table shows, by company area, the average consumption in litres for each person each day, and water available for use in megalitres each day.

More information can be found in Ofwat's annual 'Security of supply, leakage and water efficiency' report. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

	Water available for use (Mld) 2005-06	*Average household per capita consumption (l/hd) 2005-06*
Water and sewerage companies		
Anglian	1,394	144
Dwr Cymru	1,359	150
Northumbrian—North East	886	148
Northumbrian—Essex and Suffolk	407	160
Severn Trent	2,052	132
South West	483	154
Southern	754	153
Thames	2,786	164
United Utilities	2,038	142
Wessex	424	151
Yorkshire	1,386	145
Water only companies		
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	211	158
Bristol	329	155
Cambridge	95	148
Dee Valley	78	146
Folkestone and Dover	42	153
Mid Kent	179	165
Portsmouth	243	160
South East	357	166
South Staffordshire	377	148
Sutton and East Surrey	195	171
Tendring Hundred	42	124
Three Valleys	965	177

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much water was used by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* business and (c) industry sectors in each year since 1992; and what the total water use was in each year. [137614]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. It collects information each year from companies on the amount of water consumed by household and non-household customers.

The following tables show total water delivered to household and non-household customers for each year since 1992 in megalitres per day.

Water delivered 1992-93 to 2005-06

Megalitres per day

	1992-93	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*
Households	7,987	8,120	8,313	8,815	8,600	8,464	8,281
Non households	4,508	4,261	4,217	4,317	4,263	4,047	3,926
Total	12,495	12,380	12,531	13,133	12,863	12,511	12,208

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Households	8,431	8,464	8,627	8,643	8,872	8,700	8,726
Non households	3,939	3,871	3,871	3,825	3,831	3,756	3,683
Total	12,370	12,335	12,498	12,468	12,703	12,456	12,409

More information can be found in Ofwat's annual 'Security of supply, leakage and water efficiency' report. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Water: Infrastructure

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of the requirement for expenditure on new capacity in water infrastructure. [138052]

Ian Pearson: In 2001, the Environment Agency published 'Water resources for the future—a strategy for England and Wales'. The strategy is used as part of the water resources planning carried out by the Environment Agency and water companies. It sets out pressures on water resources over the next 25 years and how the Environment Agency expects these to be

managed. The publication considers both national and regional water resource strategies. Water companies' water resource management plans complement these strategies. Each year the Environment Agency publishes annual reviews of actions taken under its strategy.

From 1 April 2007, water companies will have a statutory duty to prepare and maintain long-term water resources management plans. Ofwat, as part of the periodic review process, will consider companies' business plans including investment in water infrastructure.

Water: South East Region

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that water companies in the South East share water between different resource zones. [136001]

Ian Pearson: On 1 April 2007, the preparation of water companies' 25 year water resource management plans became a statutory requirement under the Water Act 2003, and will be subject to public consultation. These plans set out the demand and supply measures water companies plan to take to maintain security of supply for their customers. The Secretary of State, Ofwat and the Environment Agency are statutory consultees, and will be able comment on the measures water companies are taking in respect of security of supply, including the transfer of water between companies' resource zones. The Secretary of State has powers to direct changes to the draft plans where he considers this is necessary.

Ofwat can also, under section 40 of the Water Industry Act 1991, after consulting with the Environment Agency, require a water company to enter into a bulk supply agreement with another water company.

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with counterparts in the Government of *(a)* Laos and *(b)* São Tomé and Príncipe on (i) whaling and (ii) membership of the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [138590]

Mr. Bradshaw: Representatives of the UK Government visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in early May to inform the Ministry of the UK's position on whaling. We received no indication from Lao of any intention to join the IWC or of their voting position if they were to do so. We have had no such discussion with São Tomé and Príncipe.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information he has received on which countries may join the International Whaling Commission in support of Japan before the annual meeting begins on 28 May; and if he will make a statement. [138591]

Mr. Bradshaw: I am disappointed if any new countries join the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to support the resumption of commercial whaling. However, since the last annual meeting, no new members have adhered to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling and stated their support for Japan's pro-whaling position.

Our posts abroad continue to lobby all countries who express any interest in joining the IWC to support the UK's position.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour: Mosquito Device

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent device Mosquito on retail workers under the age of 25 years; [134933]

(2) what discussions he has held with *(a)* audiologists, *(b)* radiation experts, *(c)* animal rights groups and *(d)* trade unions in respect of the ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent device Mosquito; [134934]

(3) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* social consequences and *(b)* environmental impact of the ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent device Mosquito. [134935]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answers 30 April 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has not held any discussions with audiologists, radiation experts, animal rights groups or trade unions in respect of the 'Mosquito' device. The device is a commercially available device and is not subject to endorsement by the Home Office.

As we understand it the Health and Safety Executive has considered the literature available on the Mosquito device in order to determine whether there is any risk to health, either to hearing or other effects, which might be relevant under section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act, etc. 1974. The Health and Safety Executive concluded that the literature available on very high frequency/ultrasound units of this type did not identify any significant and relevant health effects that may harm children/youths exposed to vhf/ ultrasound in the long-term.

The Health and Safety Executive also considered that in terms of noise exposure in the context of the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005, and therefore possible implications for persons working in proximity to these units, at the stated output level (for the Mosquito unit) of an A-weighted sound pressure level of 76 dB, for the likely daily duration of exposure, there was not likely to be any risk of an exposed person suffering hearing damage. They concluded that based on the information and evidence available, and while there is the possibility of some short-term subjective effects if the duration of expoqure is prolonged, there would appear to be little likelihood of persons exposed to vhf/ultrasound from this device suffering long-term ill health.

The Home Office has not therefore undertaken any assessment of the social consequences, environmental impact or consequences of the Mosquito device on retail workers under the age of 25.

Australia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Australian and *(b)* New Zealand nationals are resident in the UK. [138170]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 May 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning how many (a) Australian and (b) New Zealand nationals are resident in the UK. (138170)

Estimates of Australian and New Zealand nationals resident in the UK are provided in Table 1. These estimates are based on county of birth and cover the latest available twelve month period to March 2007.

Please note that there are a number of technical notes supplied that must be read in conjunction with the estimates.

Table 1: Estimates of the number of people[1] born in Australia or New Zealand and resident in the United Kingdom

12 months ending March 2007[2]	*Persons (Thousand)*
All persons[3]	58,905
Of which:	
Australia	119
New Zealand	56

[1] Calculated from those respondents in the LFS who answered the country of birth question, including people aged below 16 years.
[2] Based on an average of the latest LFS quarters from April 2006-March 2007.
[3] Includes people born in other countries.

Notes:
1. It should be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS:
excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for six months
excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent
excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.)
is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more
microdata is grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
2. As with any sample survey, the LFS results are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Crime Prevention: NHS

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many representatives of NHS acute trusts sit on crime and disorder reduction partnerships in *(a)* England and *(b)* the West Midlands region; [138284]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that accident and emergency departments play a greater role in crime and disorder reduction partnerships; [138290]

(3) what role accident and emergency departments play in crime and disorder reduction partnerships; and what assessment he has made of their effectiveness in that role. [138291]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answers 21 May 2007]:* The Government recognise that the national health service can both contribute to and benefit from local actions to tackle crime and disorder. To that end, NHS trusts, including NHS acute trusts, which incorporate accident and emergency departments, have co-operating bodies' status within Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). This means that representatives from bodies with this status are encouraged to attend CDRP meetings, for example when they have been specifically identified as leading or supporting responsible authority members in achieving the community safety objectives identified by the Partnership.

While the Home Office measures the outcomes delivered by individual CDRPs (for example, trends in crime) information on the operational arrangements of individual partnerships is not held centrally, and neither has any formal assessment been made of the role of individual partner agencies.

Football: Tickets

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of FA Cup Final tickets being sold online in breach of the prohibition on ticket touting in respect of regulated football matches; and if he will make a statement. [138916]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* The information requested is not gathered or held by the Home Office. Monitoring websites for the unauthorised sale of football tickets is a matter for the police as part of their evidence gathering in connection with internet ticket touting.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to ensure that online websites comply with the prohibition of ticket touting in respect of regulated football matches. [138877]

Mr. Coaker: The UK Football Policing Unit in collaboration with UEFA, the FA and the Premier League has drawn the position to the attention of companies which appear to be touting on the internet. Further enforcement of the law is a matter for police.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines Immigration and Nationality Directorate enforcement officials are given on how to deal with *(a)* confirmed and *(b)* unconfirmed illegal individuals when carrying out (i) raids and (ii) searches. [135839]

John Reid: Officers undertake intelligence led operational visits and searches to detain and remove persons who no longer have the right to remain in the UK and do so in line with operational policy and guidance. Guidelines for enforcement officers is contained in the Operational Enforcement Manual which can be found via the internet at:

www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk>law and policy> Operational Enforcement Manual.

Immigration: Telephone Services

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff are *(a)* employed by his Department and *(b)* on duty between 10 am and 5 pm to answer hon. Members' immigration telephone hotline calls; and what the average number of calls per day has been since its establishment. [138858]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* The Border and Immigration Agency MPs' Hotline employs 16 members of staff with up to nine call agents and four supervisors on duty to answer telephone calls between the hours of 10 am and 5 pm. The Border and Immigration Agency has received on average 126 calls per day from Members of Parliament, the House of Lords and Members of the Devolved Legislatures during the period of 1 June 2003 to 11 May 2007, which is the only period where statistical information is available.

National Black Police Association

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings Ministers from his Department have had with representatives of the National Black Police Association in the last 12 months. [126178]

Mr. McNulty: I have met representatives of the National Black Police Association on seven occasions in the last 12 months.

National Offenders Management Service

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* consultants and *(b)* interim managers have been employed by (i) the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and (ii) his Department to work in or for NOMS; what the cost of employing such people was in each month since NOMS was established; and what aspect of the work of NOMS each was retained for. [122915]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The number of consultants NOMS has employed during the period February 2006 to end February 2007 is 79.

Purpose for retaining consultants	*Number*	*Contract value (£)*
HT	14	1,463,070
IT	15	832,325
Procurement	12	924,475
Project management	38	1,941,990
Total	79	5,161,860

This total represents less than half a percent of the NOMS Budget.

The number of interim managers which NOMS has employed during the period February 2006 to end February 2007 is 203.

Purpose for retaining interims	*Number*	*Contract value (£)*
Staff substitutes	203	14,721,076
Total	203	14,721,076

This total represents 1.3 per cent. of the NOMS budget.

It is not possible to provide details of consultants or interim managers engaged for NOMS by the wider Home Office, since such details were not collated centrally during this period. This is likely to be negligible in the context of information provided in the tables.

We are unable to provide a complete breakdown of the costs on a month-by-month basis, as invoices are not necessarily submitted on this basis as they may be submitted for a piece of work rather than a period of time.

Personation: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of *(a)* identity theft and *(b)* online fraud were recorded in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [139139]

Joan Ryan: The information requested is not available centrally. The use of another person's identification details (or the use of false identification details), often referred to as identity theft, is not in itself an offence in law. It is the action that is undertaken, using those identification details, that needs to be considered in respect of whether an offence has occurred and should be recorded.

With regard to online fraud, this is not a separately defined offence in law and such instances will be recorded under the appropriate fraud classification depending on the circumstances of the offence.

TREASURY

Alcoholism: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many alcohol-related deaths were recorded in each London borough in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age group and *(b)* sex. [138494]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 May 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many alcohol-related deaths were recorded in each London borough in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age group *(b)* sex, (138494)

The attached tables provide the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in each London borough by *(a)* age group and *(b)* sex from 1996 to 2005 (the latest year available). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Allowances: Foster Care

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to revise the level at which foster care allowances are liable to be taxed to take account of recent changes to the fostering allowance system. [138602]

Mr. Timms: When it was introduced in 2003, the income tax exemption for foster carers was purposely set at a high level to ensure that the vast majority of carers would qualify for relief. There currently are no plans to revise the level at which foster care allowances are liable to be taxed.

DFES have recently introduced new national minimum allowances for foster carers, but these are still well below the level at which such income becomes liable to income tax.

Bank of England: Public Appointments

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to enhancing the role of Parliament in appointing members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England. [139046]

Ed Balls: Since the introduction of the Government's monetary policy framework 10 years ago UK inflation has averaged 1.5 per cent. compared with 4.2 per cent. in the preceding decade. The Government continue to monitor all aspects of the framework to ensure it remains at the forefront of international best practice.

Council Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will provide funding to the Department for Communities and Local Government to enable the same number of council houses to be built each year as in 1967. [139178]

John Healey: The 2004 spending review provided increased funding to help deliver an additional 10,000 new social homes a year by 2007-08 compared with 2004-05. The Government recognise that there is still a need to go further and have already stated that they will set out ambitious plans for increasing social housing supply as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138450]

John Healey: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many telephone helplines are sponsored by his Department with the prefix *(a)* 0870 and *(b)* 0845; and whether alternative geographic numbers are available in each case. [138486]

John Healey: The Treasury has no 0845 or 0870 telephone lines.

Employment: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in Copeland were recorded as being in full-time employment in the financial year ending *(a)* March 1997 and *(b)* March 2007; [138638]

(2) how many women in Copeland were recorded as being in full-time employment in the financial year ending *(a)* March 1997 and *(b)* March 2007. [138639]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 May 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking (i) how many people in Copeland were recorded as being in full-time employment in the financial year ending (a) March 1997 and (b) March 2007 and (ii) how many women in Copeland were recorded as being in full-time employment in the financial year ending (a) March 1997 and (b) March 2007. (138638, 138639)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Estimates of the number of people in full-time employment, resident in the Copeland constituency, as well as all the other parliamentary constituencies in Great Britain, was provided in an Answer on 3rd May 2007, Official Report Volume 459: column 1806W-1807W, reference 135561.

There were 6,000 women, aged 16 and over, resident in the Copeland constituency, in full-time employment for the 12 month period ending in February 1997 based on data from the annual local area LFS. The corresponding estimate, for the 12 months ending in September 2006, the latest available data from the APS, was 8,000.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

Foreign Companies: VAT

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of money not paid each year to the Exchequer through the use by UK-based companies of overseas operations where value-added tax is not paid. [139176]

Mr. Timms: HMRC does not have the information required to make such an estimate.

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to require UK-based companies to pay value-added tax for transactions undertaken using locations outside the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [139177]

Mr. Timms: The Government have monitored closely exploitation of the relief by companies making VAT-free supplies from outside the EU, particularly from the Channel Islands. It notes the action already taken by the authorities there to counter such exploitation. In particular we welcome the commitment made by Jersey authorities, in decisions with the Government, to limit the activities of companies continuing to operate on the island, with the associated revenue loss to the Exchequer. The Government remain in discussion with the Guernsey

authorities on this issue. It hopes that they will shortly be in a position to make a similar commitment. The Government will continue to keep the situation under close review.

Group of Seven

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he had during the last G7 Finance Ministers' conference in Washington DC. [134572]

John Healey: The G7 Finance Ministers met from 14.30 till 22.00 on 13 April.

Insurance: Discrimination

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of whether services offered by the travel insurance industry discriminate against older people. [138394]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 408W, to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew).

The Government's Discrimination Law Review are currently considering whether there is a case for prohibiting age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services, including insurance. The Government expect to publish a Green Paper shortly.

Minimum Wage: Enforcement

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases his Department has recorded of employers being in breach of legislation on the national minimum wage; and how many of these cases resulted in a successful prosecution in each year since the coming into force of the relevant provisions. [138497]

Mr. Timms: The number of cases recorded where non-compliance has been identified are as follows:

	Closed cases with arrears identified
1999-2000	1,280
2000-01	2,119
2001-02	1,937
2002-03	1,996
2003-04	2,211
2004-05	1,798
2005-06	1,582
2006-07	1,523

The National Minimum Wage Act 1998 contains a number of provisions empowering enforcement officers to take civil action against non-paying employers and HMRC use these in the first instance when agreement cannot be reached. Agreement is reached in over 95 per cent. of cases without recourse to these measures.

In May 2006 the joint policy on enforcement and prosecutions was agreed between DTI, HMRC and Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Service (RCPO). To date there have been no prosecutions but a number of cases are being investigated by HMRC.

Pay: Nurses

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the saving to the Treasury resulting from phasing the nurses' pay award in 2007; what percentage of the total money supply this saving represents; and what estimated reduction in inflation is predicted as a result of staging nurses' pay in 2007. [135938]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: The Government aim to strike a balance between the need to pay at levels necessary to recruit, retain and motivate staff, while at the same time ensuring that pay increases do not increase inflationary pressures and are affordable within the overall public finances.

Wage pressures are one of the factors considered by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England when setting interest rates to meet the inflation target.

Pensioners: Income Tax

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* pensioners over 80 years are paying income tax. [138393]

Ed Balls: The number of pensioners paying income tax in 2007-08 can be found in table 2.1 "Number of individual income taxpayers" on the HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

There are an estimated 830,000 pensioners over the age of 80 paying income tax in 2007-08.

The information is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2004-05 is the latest available, and projected in line with Budget 2007 assumptions.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of staff identified as pre-surplus have been re-assigned to *(a)* other HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) posts and *(b)* other Civil Service posts outside HMRC. [134308]

Dawn Primarolo: A total of 688 pre-surplus staff has been recorded centrally as having been re-assigned. This can be broken down as follows:

	Number
Successful in job applications	396
Voluntary re-deployment within HMRC	179
Compulsory re-deployment within HMRC	18
Moved to other Government Departments (voluntary)	95

Pre-surplus is the term used by HMRC to denote those individuals whose post or work is no longer being carried out in a particular location, no longer being done by that office or where such changes are planned in the future. This status is also used for offices and parts of the Department where appropriate.

As part of the efficiency savings identified under the Gershon and Lyons reviews HMRC is committed to reducing 25,000 posts by 2011 and pre-surplus is one of

the main ways in which we are working with staff to identify posts and re-deploy staff either within the Department, to other Government Departments or to work outside the Civil Service.

There is a great deal of support available to staff who are in this position, including support workshops, dedicated teams to secure future posts, early retirement packages where appropriate, IT solutions etc.

Voucher Schemes: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps have been taken to increase employer participation in the childcare voucher scheme; and if he will make a statement. [138687]

Ed Balls: The tax exemptions we have introduced provide a significant incentive for employers to help their employees with the costs of childcare, whether in the form of childcare vouchers, workplace nurseries or directly contracted childcare.

HMRC provides comprehensive help and guidance to employers and parents on its website, which is regularly reviewed and updated. This can be found at www.hmrc.gov.uk/childcare. HMRC is also about to publish a new leaflet for parents called "Paying for childcare - getting help from your employer", specifically aimed at explaining what employer-supported childcare is and how it works.

Vulture Funds

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the tax revenue collected from vulture funds registered within the UK in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [139041]

(2) how many vulture funds are registered within the UK; and if he will make a statement. [139042]

Ed Balls: HMRC does not have any data that would enable it to identify entities that might be acting as "vulture funds" and so does not hold data on their revenue and tax payments.

The UK is committed to tackling the actions of vulture funds. The Chancellor raised this issue with his G8 colleagues at the weekend. The G8 agreed to work together to identify measures to tackle this problem, based on the work of the Paris Club. Since then the Paris Club have confirmed their commitment to avoiding selling their claims on HIPC countries to other creditors who do not intend to provide debt relief under the HIPC initiative. In co-operation with the relevant international institutions, Paris Club creditors have agreed to intensify their work on this issue with a view to identify concrete measures to tackle this problem. See

http://www.clubdeparis.org/sections/services/communiques/communique-presse-du/viewLanguage/en

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Gloucestershire and *(c)* Forest of Dean constituency were paid tax credits in each of the last five years. [138796]

Mr. Timms: New tax credits were introduced in April 2003, and are currently in their fifth year of operation.

Estimates for the number of in-work families with tax credit awards by country, county, and constituency (based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003-04 and 2004-05) are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2003-04 Geographical Analysis" and "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2004-05 Geographical Analysis". These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Figures for 2005-06 were published on Tuesday 22 May.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, (1) what estimate he has made of the impact on poverty of a rate of tax credit take-up of 100 per cent; [139037]

(2) what estimate he has made of the potential impact of an increased claimant rate among those eligible for tax credits on poverty levels among this group. [139038]

Mr. Timms: Tax credits play a key role in making work pay and reducing poverty, and have helped to lift 600,000 children out of relative poverty since 1996-97. Latest statistics show that take-up of tax credits for families with children was 82 per cent. in 2004-05, rising to 97 per cent. for those on low incomes, significantly higher than for previous comparable systems of support. HMRC has in place a programme of activity further to raise take-up of tax credits amongst eligible families, which will contribute to the Government's objective of halving child poverty by 2010. No estimate has been made yet of the precise contribution that 100 per cent. take-up of tax credits would make to reducing poverty.

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit cases have been referred to the Adjudicator's Office in the last 12 months; and how many of those *(a)* have had a successful outcome and *(b)* have resulted in a recommendation for compensation. [138571]

Mr. Timms: The information on the tax credit cases dealt with by the Adjudicator's Office will be published in the Adjudicator's annual report shortly.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of tax credit cases being referred to the Adjudicator's Office in the last 12 months. [138572]

Mr. Timms: This information is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 421W, on welfare tax credits: overpayments, how many notices of warning of legal proceedings if payment is not made were sent to individuals claiming tax credits in each month from April 2003 to March 2007. [138050]

Mr. Timms: The notices were sent out by local offices. The information requested is not held centrally.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any debts owed to the Child Support Agency will be written off once it has been replaced by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [136876]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the right hon. Member to sections 5.38 and 5.39 on page 79 in the child maintenance White Paper "A new system of child maintenance" (Cm 6979) and section 5.38 page 75 in "A new system of child maintenance—Summary of responses to the consultation" (Cm 7061).

Child Support Agency: Advertising

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Child Support Agency spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers and other publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each. [136013]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much the Child Support Agency spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers and other publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each. [136013]

The Child Support Agency incurred no cost in the 2006-07 financial year sponsoring newspapers or publication supplement, or funding advertorials in newspapers or other publications

As part of the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan an advertising press campaign was conducted in March 2007 highlighting the Agency's enforcement powers and their use over a 12-month period. The total cost of this advertising was £126,465 in the 2006-07 financial year.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Correspondence

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long the Child Support Agency takes to respond to inquiries from hon. Members in the latest period for which figures are available. [135768]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how long the Child Support Agency takes to respond to inquiries from hon. Members. [135768]

The Agency aims to provide a response from an appropriate senior manager to all inquiries from hon. Members within 15-days. In 2006-07, 88.2 per cent. of inquiries from hon. Members were answered within this time.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the salary range is for each staff pay grade at the Child Support Agency; and what the mean salary is within each grade. [136016]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of state promised a substantive reply from the the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the salary range is for each staff pay grade at the Child Support Agency, and what the mean salary is within each grate. [136016]

The table below contains the information requested. The mean salary has been calculated based on staff costs in January

£

Grade	*Payscale scale minimum*	*Payscale maximum*	*Mean*
Administrative assistant	12,340	13,990,	13,142
Administrative officer	13,990,	17,250	16,257
Executive officer	18,160	23,510	21,038
Higher executive officer	23,930	28,920	26,886
Senior executive officer	29,570	35,420	33,050
Unified grade 7	38,390	51,910	42,792
Unified grade 6	51,790	63,510	55,230
Senior civil servants	56,100	205,000	87,090

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents with care in receipt of benefits were awaiting payment in *(a)* old scheme and *(b)* new scheme Child Support Agency cases in each month since January 2003. [122889]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the right, hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents with care in receipt of benefits were awaiting

payment in (a) old scheme and (b) new scheme Child Support Agency cases in each month since January 2003.

There are two scenarios where a parent with care can be awaiting payment. Firstly there are those cases that are waiting for a maintenance assessment/calculation to establish if or how much the non-resident parent should pay for their children. Secondly, where a positive liability has been established, a parent with care can be waiting for the non-resident parent to pay maintenance.

The information requested can be found on the following tables.

Table 1 shows the number of new and old scheme cases (on the new computer system only) that have not had an assessment or calculation, where the parent with care was known to be in receipt of benefit. This information is not available for the old computer system; therefore it is not representative of the total amount of cases that have not had an assessment or calculation in the Agency as a whole. Also, it is important to note that cases that have not had an assessment/calculation will not necessarily result in a positive liability to pay maintenance. Whilst the table shows an increase in the number of new scheme cases awaiting assessment where the parent with care was on benefits, it should be noted that this is due in part, to the natural growth of the new system caseload over the period in question.

Table 2 shows the number of new and old scheme cases (on both computer systems) with a positive maintenance liability where the parent with care was in receipt of benefit but the non-resident parent was not paying maintenance. Although the number of new scheme cases where the parent with care was on benefits, and were not receiving payment, has increased, it should be noted that this is due in part, to the natural growth of the new system caseload over the period in question.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: the number of cases (on the new computer system only) that have not had an assessment or calculation, where the parent with care was known to be in receipt of benefit at the end of the quarter, February 2003 to May 2006

Quarter ending	Old scheme cases operating on the new computer system	New scheme
May 2003	12,000	17,000
August 2003	16,000	44,000
November 2003	18,000	58,000
February 20404	19,000	65,000
May 2004	20,000	79,000
August 2004	21,000	86,000
November 2004	16,000	89,000
February 2005	16,000	94,000
May 2005	16,000	96,000
August 2005	15,000	99,000
November 2005	14,000	99,000
February 2006	13,000	101,000
May 2006	13,000	95,000

Notes:
1. To establish whether a parent with care was on benefit at a point in time the agency has to match its records to DWP benefit data. It is only possible to match data at the end of every quarter. The latest information available is for May 2006.
2. Due to restrictions of management information it is not possible to state how many uncleared cases on the old computer system have a parent with care on benefit.
3. The table does not include a number of "potential applications" received via Jobcentre Plus as the agency is unable to establish how many of these cases are genuine cases and how many are changes of circumstances on existing cases until the cases have been cleared.
4 Cases that have not had an assessment/calculation will not necessarily result in a positive liability to pay maintenance.
5. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 2: the number of cases (on both computer systems) with a positive maintenance liability over the three month period ending in the month shown, where the parent with care was in receipt of benefit at the end of that period, but the non-resident parent was not paying maintenance, February 2003 to May 2006

Quarter ending	Old scheme	New scheme	Total
February 2003	62,000	n/a	62,000
May 2003	64,000	1,000	65,000
August 2003	65,000	9,000	74,000
November 2003	59,000	21,000	81,000
February 2004	56,000	30,000	85,000
May 2004	53,000	35,000	89,000
August 2004	52,000	39,000	90,000
November 2004	59,000	40,000	99,000
February 2005	59,000	43,000	102,000
May 2005	56,000	47,000	104,000
August 2005	55,000	53,000	108,000
November 2005	52,000	59,000	111,000
February 2006	50,000	66,000	115,000
May 2006	47,000	68,000	115,000

Notes:
1. To establish whether a parent with care was on benefit at a point in time the agency has to match its records to DWP benefit data. It is only possible to match data at the end of every quarter. The latest information available is for May 2006.
2. The table shows the number of cases with a positive maintenance liability at the end of each three month period where the parent with care was in receipt of benefit at the end of that period, but the non-resident parent was not paying maintenance.
3. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discretion the Child Support Agency has to allow longer periods for the payment of arrears than the guidelines suggest; and if he will make a statement. [133410]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is out of the country, I am responding with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what discretion the Child Support Agency has to allow longer periods for the payment of arrears than the guidelines suggest; and if he will make a statement. [133410]

Although the Agency aims to collect all outstanding arrears within 2 years where possible, guidelines issued to our people also reflect the terms of the Collections and Enforcement Regulations, 1992 that prohibit the Agency from recouping more than 40% of a non-resident parent's net income.

The guidelines further allow Agency people to exercise reasonable discretion when negotiating arrears agreements. In doing so, we take account of the need to ensure non-resident parents meet their responsibilities, and then more maintenance gets to more children. Full account of the circumstances of the client in question are also taken, and in some cases the Agency can allow a longer period for the payment of the arrears than two years.

I hope your find this answer helpful.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much had been received by the Child Support Agency by non-resident parents but not sent on to the parent with care on the most recent date for which figures are available; and what the figure was on the same day in each year since 2003. [134122]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, date 24 May 2007:

In reply to you recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and pensions, how much had been received by the Child Support Agency by non-resident parents but not sent on to the parent with care on the most recent date for which figures are available; and what the figure was on the same day in each year since 2003. [134122]

The Agency collection service deals with significant sums passing through its bank account (in excess of £600 million in each of the last two years). As a consequence the Agency bank balance is continually turning over with receipts from Non Resident Parents and employers which need to be assigned and be paid out to Parents with Care or the Secretary of State (where the Parent with Care is in receipt of benefit).

The table below contains a snapshot of the Agency's bank account for each of the last four years.

Statement of balances

£000

	31 March 2006	31 March 2005	31 March 2004	31 March 2003
Funds awaiting clearance	7,739	9,610	8,487	7,671
Cleared funds awaiting distribution	6,416	14,189	11,012	10,718
Total	14,155	23,799	19,499	18,389

Notes:

1. Figures for March 2007 are not yet available for publication as they are subject to National Audit Office scrutiny ahead of the publication of the Agency's 2007 annual report and accounts.
2. Cleared funds awaiting distribution include payments, which are in the process of being paid out but are subject to standard banking processing, which take three working days. It also includes cases for which further information is required before maintenance payments can be released.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average time was taken for applications to the Child Support Agency to be processed from the initial application to clearance stage in each quarter since spring 2003; and what the average wait was for such cases. [136488]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, date 24 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what average time was taken for applications to the Child Support Agency to be processed from the initial application to clearance stage in each quarter since spring 2003; and what the average wait was for such cases.

The latest statistics on the average age of clearances of New Scheme cases has been published in table 4 of the March 2007 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar07.asp.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications were made to the Child Support Agency in each quarter since spring 2003; and how many were *(a)* cleared for maintenance payments and *(b)* cleared for closure in each quarter. [136489]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive rely from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many applications have been made to the Child Support Agency in each quarter since spring 2003; and of these how many have been (a) cleared for maintenance payments and (b) cleared for closure in each quarter.

The latest statistics on new scheme applications cleared and how they were cleared has been published in tables 2.3 and 2.4 of the March 2007 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics.

A copy of this is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar07.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Child Support Agency expects to be able to secure maintenance payments in the case of the constituent of the hon. Member for Birkenhead Lyndsy Graves; and what the reasons are for the time taken to do so. [139036]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Child Support Agency expects to be able to secure maintenance payments in the case of the constituent of the hon. Member for Birkenhead, Lyndsy Graves; and what the reasons are for the time taken to do so. [139036]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

DNA

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1826W, on DNA, on how many occasions DNA data collected by the Child Support Agency were made available to other *(a)* Departments, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* public authorities. [136703]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 May 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply form the chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 3rd May 2007, Official Report, column 1826W, on DNA on how many occasions DNA data collected by the Child Support Agency was made available to other (a) departments (b) agencies and (c) other public authorities. [136703]

The Agency does not collect DNA data; only information concerning whether there has been a referral to a DNA testing company, whether a test was conducted and the outcome of any such tests is stored.

Neither the Agency nor its contractual supplier of DNA testing facilities routinely discloses any information relating to it s clients to any third party, including other government departments, agencies or other public authorities. Indeed the contract with our supplier of DNA tests contains a confidentiality clause that prohibits the company from disclosing information gathered in the course of its work for the Agency and binds the contractual supplier to the terms of the Official Secrets Act 1911-89 and Section 123 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

The Agency is careful to conform to all the requirements of the Data Protection Act. The public can be confident that their privacy is assured and any personal information the Agency hold is not disclosed without consent, barring certain exceptional circumstances where disclosure is in the public interest, or to meet statutory requirements. I am not aware of any case in which the Agency has been required to share the results of a DNA test with any party other than those involved in the test.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

English Language

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has plans to extend the additional funding for English as a second language training proposed for London to other UK cities with large populations of residents for whom English is not a first language. [131824]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Budget announced £5.7 million funding to trial short, work-focused approaches to provide training in English as a second language in the London Cities Strategy pathfinders for parents with English language needs on benefits and tax credits.

We will use this additional provision to supplement the current range of provision in London, targeting the needs of this priority group, helping to make better links between English language skills and employment outcomes.

Any extension of this approach into other cities will be considered after evaluation of the London pilots.

IT Projects

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which information technology projects are being undertaken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies; what the (i) start date, (ii) original planned completion date, (iii) expected completion date, (iv) originally planned costs and (v) estimated costs are of each; and if he will make a statement. [102111]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1162-68W, to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 467W, on social security benefits: fraud, if he will list and describe the other techniques referred to; how the caller's voice is recorded using voice risk analysis software if the customer is not present; and whether the Department intends to test the voice risk analysis software with customers *(a)* present and *(b)* absent. [137693]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department intends to test voice risk analysis software in combination with questions designed to highlight risk factors and identify other inconsistencies in real-time telephone conversations.

JUSTICE

Criminal Justice Act 2003

Mr. Cox: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what assessment she has made of the impact on the conviction rate of those pleading not guilty before the courts of the provisions of sections 100 to 103 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003; [138936]

(2) what estimate she has made of *(a)* the number of contested trials in which, since the commencement of sections 100 to 103 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, evidence of bad character has been admitted, *(b)* the number and percentage of those trials which have resulted in conviction and *(c)* the percentage of all trials before the courts in which such evidence has been admitted; [138937]

(3) what assessment she has made of the overall effects on the criminal justice system of the implementation of sections 100 to 103 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [138938]

Mr. Hanson: Detailed statistics on these matters are not collected routinely. However, following the implementation of Part 11 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, we have conducted a research project to evaluate the effect of the bad character provisions. The aims of the research are: to determine how frequently applications are made to adduce evidence about the bad character of the defendant and of non-defendants

in criminal trials and how frequently applications are granted and refused; to establish how the provisions are being implemented and interpreted by legal practitioners and the courts; to explore what impact the provisions have had upon the balance struck between prosecution and defence interests in criminal trials; to consider to what extent, if any, the provisions have had a differential impact upon defendants or non-defendants from black and minority ethnic groups; and to explore whether the provisions have had any impact upon witnesses' willingness to give evidence. This research is currently undergoing a peer review process.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people with epilepsy are employed by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [139104]

Vera Baird: This information can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost given that it is not recorded centrally.

Within the former DCA briefing papers are disseminated to workplace support advisers (formerly welfare) and HR advisers on how to deal with reasonable adjustments for those people with epilepsy.

The Prison Service is committed to work with each individual member of staff who has a disability, including those with epilepsy, to ensure the most appropriate reasonable adjustments are made to enable them to continue working for us.

Elections

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was spent by her Department on the use of electronic counting technology and equipment for the May 2007 elections to the Scottish Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [137686]

Bridget Prentice: My Department did not incur any expenditure on the use of electronic counting technology and equipment for the May 2007 elections to the Scottish Parliament.

Fines: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much is expected to be received from payments of the victims surcharge in financial years *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [138892]

Ms Harman: It is estimated that £15.1 million of surcharge monies will be collected in the first full year of implementation, but this estimate did not explicitly relate to 2007-08. The estimate is expected to remain valid for future years. No estimates have been made for specific financial years.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what will happen to money received from payments of the victims surcharge. [138893]

Ms Harman: Monies received from the victims surcharge will go to the victims fund that will be dispersed to projects and schemes to support the victims and witnesses of crime.

Legal Aid: Ethnic Groups

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the implementation of the recommendations of the Carter Review of legal aid on black and minority ethnic legal firms in London; [138978]

(2) if she will undertake to conduct a race impact assessment of the proposed Carter Review reforms of legal aid; [138979]

(3) what assessment she has made of the impact of the implementation of the recommendations of the Carter Review of legal aid on access to justice by clients with disabilities. [138980]

Vera Baird: The Government set out their overall strategy for the reform of legal aid procurement in "Legal Aid Reform: the way ahead", published in November last year. This was accompanied by a final regulatory impact assessment of those policies that were fully developed for implementation. These can be found on the Legal Services Commission's website at: www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/docs_for_consultation/openConsultations002.asp.

In addition, as we progress along the proposed reform programme, the LSC and Ministry of Justice are, between us, producing draft and final regulatory impact assessments as appropriate at each step of the process. These assessments take into account any relevant impacts that are identified in the policy formulation and decision-making process, such as for BME-owned firms and BME practitioners, for clients with disabilities and for rural areas.

Where possible, impacts are also identified on a local level, including for London. These will be available on the Legal Services Commission's website. As we progress with our reforms, our overarching aim is to ensure access to quality legal aid services for all clients.

Medical Tribunals

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has to record details of the nature of medical conditions of people who attend medical tribunals; and if she will make a statement. [139024]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no plans to record details of medical conditions of people who attend medical tribunals.

The Tribunals Service does record the benefit type and the issue to be decided on their processing system in all benefit cases.

Social Security Benefits: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what guidance her Department has provided to benefit appeal tribunals on the chronic condition of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis; and if she will make a statement. [139023]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Guidance is not issued by any Government Department to appeal tribunals on how to approach cases or decide them. Instead, the Department for Work and Pensions has made available to tribunals the disability handbook which contains a section on chronic fatigue syndrome and myalgic encephalomyelitis.

Written Questions

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when she will reply to parliamentary question 122915, tabled by the hon. and learned Member for Harborough for written answer on 20 February 2007. [137484]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have replied to the hon. Gentleman's question today.

Young Offenders: Education

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will revise the prison orders applying to young female offenders to make specific provision for their education. [138086]

Vera Baird: The provision of education for young female offenders is set out in the under-18 version of the offender's learning journey, the document that specifies the service to be delivered by the Learning and Skills Council's providers. The offender's learning journey requires providers to assess the learning needs of offenders, providing a service personalised to their needs. The offender's learning journey is currently being updated. No consequential amendments will need to be made to Prison Service Order 4950 on the Care and Management of Young People.

Youth Justice Board

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answers of *(a)* 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 976W and *(b)* 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1060W, on the Youth Justice Board, whether the research published on the Youth Justice Board's website represents all research that the Board has commissioned. [138835]

Mr. Hanson: All completed research which meets the YJB's quality assurance standards has been published on the YJB's website. Some projects have not been published because they do not meet research quality standards, for example they have limited data quality and sample sizes which are too small to validate findings.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Airports

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to announce changes in policy on the ground operations of all UK airports. [138629]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

We have no plans to change policy on ground operations at UK airports. These operations are governed by the EU Groundhandling Directive 1996 which aims at liberalising the provision of groundhandling services through the introduction of competition.

Broadband

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what benchmarking exercises his Department has undertaken on the *(a)* minimum speed used to define and *(b)* availability of broadband in the UK and other European countries; and if he will make a statement. [135518]

Margaret Hodge: In order to maximise resources my Department agreed with Ofcom in June 2005 that we would share research data on *(a)* minimum speeds and *(b)* availability of broadband. It seemed sensible for Ofcom to lead in light of their responsibilities under the Communications Act 2003.

Ofcom's report, entitled 'The International Communications Market report' benchmarks the UK's performance against international competitors and allows us to monitor minimum speed and availability of broadband. We also source research and information from other EU and OECD reports. The latest update of Ofcom's 'The International Communications Market 2006' can be found on their website at:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/research/cm/icmr06/

Ofcom define the speed of broadband as being "always on" and providing a bandwidth greater than 128kbit/s. OECD data define the speed of broadband as any connection that has download speeds equal to or faster than 256 Kbit/s.

My Department did commission two reports from 2002 to 2006, which benchmarked the *(b)* availability of broadband in the UK and other European countries. Both are available on the DTI website.

1. The International and UK Broadband Market Report produced by Ovum. http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file29469.pdf International Broadband Market Comparisons Update

2. The Sophisticated Broadband Services Report produced by Analysys Consulting.

http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file29468.pdf Sophisticated Broadband Services Report - May 2006.

Combined Heat and Power: Building Regulations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on possible amendments to the Building Regulations to include a requirement to install microgeneration technologies in new and refurbished buildings. [138384]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Minister for Energy have held regular discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government on a range of energy issues including the role of Building Regulations in promoting microgeneration.

Competition

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what targets are set by his Department for regional development agencies (RDAs) to support the Government's target on regional competitiveness; what assessment he has made of performance by each RDA against these targets; and if he will make a statement. [138753]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The RDA tasking framework, introduced in April 2005, comprises a set of 10 output targets: with the RDAs agreeing specific numbers against them. The targets cover employment creation and support, business creation and support, leverage of public and private sector infrastructure investment, brownfield land reclamation/ redevelopment, and skills development. The performance of the RDAs against their targets is laid before Parliament every six months. Nationally, as a network, the RDAs have achieved or exceeded their targets every year since a common target framework was introduced in 2002, except in 2002-03 when the employment target was not met, and in 2005-06 when the level 2 skills sub-target was not met.

Competition: North West Region

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to ensure that the spending decisions of the North West Regional Development Agency are consistent with the public service agreement target for regional competitiveness. [138755]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The RDA tasking framework requires each RDA, including the North West Development Agency, to show in its corporate plan how it will contribute to the delivery of a number of Government PSA targets, including the regional economic performance PSA. The NWDA's current corporate plan for 2005-08 outlines the RDA's proposed expenditure over the current spending review settlement period and was approved by Ministers in July 2005. To monitor the progress against the targets the RDAs are required to report their results every six months.

Departments: Official Visits

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent on visits and related activities undertaken by his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials, including departmentally sponsored agencies, in each of the last three years. [134626]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information in the format requested would be available only at disproportionate costs. However the following table shows the total expenditure for each of the last three years for both Ministers and officials on travel and subsistence.

	Total (£000)
2004-05	10,064
2005-06	11,010
2006-07	10,331

The totals shown cover the Core DTI, the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Weights and Measurement Laboratories and the UK Intellectual Property Office.

Travel and subsistence payments include: rail and air fares, taxis, mileage allowances, hotel costs and subsistence payments.

Glaztek

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received on *(a)* facilities closure and *(b)* redundancies at Glaztek in Harworth. [139035]

Margaret Hodge: I have received no representations concerning either the facilities closure or redundancies at Glaztek in Harworth.

Mining

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much methane was extracted from former colliery sites in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* Hemsworth constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [138141]

Malcolm Wicks: The available information on colliery methane production and consumption is published in Table 4.2 of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2006. The latest data relate to 2005 and show production of 757 GWh. Data are available at the UK level only and relate to production from operating collieries. There was no recorded production of coal bed methane from former colliery sites in 2005.

Nuclear Power: Pollution Control

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many prosecutions have been *(a)* initiated and *(b)* won in the courts by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate against (i) companies, (ii) local authorities and (iii) individuals in relation to incidents of pollution, broken down by (A) region, (B) band of level of fine and (C) type of pollution incident. [137851]

Malcolm Wicks: None: the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive does not investigate or prosecute cases of pollution. (The Environment Agencies are the responsible bodies for investigating or prosecuting cases of pollution.)

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what requirements there are for the return for long-term management or disposal of radioactively contaminated metals exported from decommissioning facilities at Sellafield to the Studsvik decontamination plant once processed; whether safety and security plans covering shipments from Sellafield to Studsvik have been approved by his Department; and what the costs are to *(a)* British Nuclear Group Sellafield Ltd and *(b)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of the planned shipments of such material from Sellafield to Studsvik. [137664]

Malcolm Wicks: The return of radioactively contaminated metals exported from decommissioning facilities at BNG Sellafield to Studsvik Sweden must meet the requirements of regulators both in the UK and Sweden. Following treatment by smelting in Sweden, the metal is recycled through the Swedish metals industry. This might require the metal to be held at Studsvik Sweden for a period of 'decay' storage in order to achieve the recycling concentration criteria established by the Swedish environmental regulator and the European Commission. If the concentration of radioactivity in the metal is too high to achieve the recycling criteria within 10 years of 'decay' storage it will be returned to the UK for storage or disposal. If repatriation is required it will usually occur within two years of the smelting process. Radioactive waste materials separated out in the smelting process (for example in the slag) are separated and returned to the UK consignor for disposal, together with any other radioactive wastes produced.

These arrangements are contractual obligations and have been agreed between the Environment Agency and the Swedish regulator (SSI).

The costs of such shipments are a commercial matter for the NDA and BNG Sellafield.

Renewable Energy: Research

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much funding was provided by his Department for research and development into renewable energy technologies in each year since 1990, broken down by type. [136243]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department and Research Councils expenditure on R and D on renewable energy technologies from 1996 is set out in the following tables. It has not been possible to collate expenditure since 1990 in the time available at proportionate cost.

DTI Renewable energy R and D expenditure

£

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Bioenergy	2,575,853	1,464,922	1,193,500	1,664,159	1,353,942	1,348,962
Hydrogen	141,884	56,950	79,965	137,731	60,269	129,626
Solar/PV	1,889,415	1,672,937	1,006,877	1,282,761	1,265,798	1,522,106
Wave and Tidal	54,865	7,670	95,649	20,442	360,849	968,033
Wind	2,377,360	1,246,222	957,769	808,587	912,822	1,247,901
Total	7,039,377	4,448,701	3,333,760	3,913,680	3,953,680	5,216,628

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Bioenergy	1,637,073	1,604,705	974,222	879,123	301,055
Hydrogen	200,391	85,244	33,045	—	8,088
Solar/PV	4,484,914	3,130,705	1,970,338	1,782,327	1,127,622
Wave and Tidal	2,744,782	5,018,572	1,235,488	1,655,194	2,257,894
Wind	1,427,651	1,394,696	1,459,598	1,136,774	844,752
Total	10,494,811	11,233,922	5,672,691	5,453,418	4,539,411

Research Councils energy R and D expenditure

£000

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Biofuel	0	0	0	22	52	144	135	92	184
Biomass	447	871	736	601	701	783	1,043	1,158	1,840
CHP	4	36	63	77	267	357	226	71	51
CO_2 sequestration	0	0	0	23	42	78	30	966	1,072
Fuel cells	888	1,012	703	899	1,145	1,468	1,193	917	1,207
Hydrogen and other Vectors	30	136	59	83	319	517	1,494	1,477	1,499
Solar	1,440	1,286	1,076	1,134	1,130	1,157	1,453	1,503	1,534
Photovoltaic	2,255	3,002	2,760	2,992	3,536	2,770	2,381	2,676	2,531
Wave and tidal	0	157	175	301	606	617	830	995	1,026
Wind	200	226	178	261	330	430	482	243	125
Waste	66	10	40	40	96	125	169	154	79
Geothermal	0	0	0	40	65	64	73	79	106
Storage	326	650	670	838	889	810	730	467	789
Networks	1,348	1,168	1,081	919	1,115	1,588	1,805	2,390	3,666
Other renewable	0	49	49	128	28	28	28	30	114
Total renewable	7,003	8,602	7,590	8,356	10,319	10,795	12,072	13,218	15,823

In addition the Research Councils have supported further research relating to energy in the work of the Tyndall Centre for climate change research, which has some £15.6 million funding from Research Councils over 2000-09, and in the work of the UK Energy Research Centre which commenced operation in 2004, with a budget of £13.9 million for 2004-09.

Telephone Services: Utilities

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with regulatory bodies on the cost to customers of utility companies' customer helplines. [138306]

Malcolm Wicks: The Secretary of State and the Minister for Energy have had no discussions with regulatory bodies about this issue.

Utilities: Fees and Charges

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what complaints his Department has received about utility companies that charge a payment processing fee to customers who do not use direct debit facilities. [135486]

Margaret Hodge: I have received a number of representations from hon. Members about this matter. I have therefore raised the issue with the chief executive officer of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Ofcom is considering whether the level of the charges across the communications sector raises regulatory issues.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate has been made of the income generated by utility companies as a result of payment processing charges for customers who do not use direct debit facilities. [135487]

Margaret Hodge: No estimate has been made as this is a commercial matter for the companies concerned.

My understanding is that organisations do apply a price differential between customers who pay their accounts by direct debit and those who pay by other means on the basis of increased processing and debt management costs associated with payments not made by direct debit. Such differentials are common practice among both communications providers and utility service providers.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with utility companies on the payment processing charges for customers who do not use direct debit facilities. [135488]

Margaret Hodge: I have raised this issue with BT and the chief executive officer of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). BT operates schemes to ensure that vulnerable groups have access to affordable telephone services. BT reassured me that their special tariff schemes are not affected by the increased charges. Ofcom is considering whether the level of the charges across the communications sector raises regulatory issues.

Telecoms providers and utility providers do mostly apply a price differential between customers who pay by direct debit and those who pay by other means on the basis of increased processing and debt management costs associated with payments not made by direct debit.

I have not held discussions with other utility suppliers on this issue.

TRANSPORT

A303: Stonehenge

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will announce his decision on the A303(T) improvement scheme at Stonehenge. [138405]

Dr. Ladyman: We are considering the findings of the inter-departmental review of the Stonehenge Improvement Scheme and alternative options. In order to understand more fully the effects of some of the options on the operation of the A303 and the local road network, it has been necessary to undertake further detailed analysis based on up-to-date traffic surveys which were undertaken last autumn. The results from this work will be considered alongside the findings of the review group to inform our decision on the way forward for this scheme which we expect to announce later in 2007.

Air Routes: Shropshire

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has held with local authorities in Shropshire on air routes over the Shropshire Hills and the Wrekin. [138630]

Gillian Merron: None. The CAA's Directorate of Airspace Policy has lead responsibility for the regulation of UK airspace, including consideration of the environmental impact of any airspace changes.

Airports: Security

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who is responsible for the security regime operating for passengers in UK airports; what standardisation exists throughout the EU to ensure that equal security provisions are imposed on all European travellers; and if he will make a statement. [138208]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State, through the Transport Security and Contingencies Directorate (TRANSEC) of my Department, sets the security requirements and standards to be applied at UK airports. The airports themselves—and other directed parties such as airlines—are responsible for implementing the measures. The Department monitors compliance with security requirements and takes enforcement action where necessary.

Regulation EC/2320/2002 sets a common baseline for security standards at all European Union airports. Member states may however impose more stringent measures within their own territory where they judge this to be appropriate.

British Transport Police: Manpower

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* community support officers there are in the British Transport Police in (i) Swansea and (ii) England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [139253]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, email: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk

Bus Services: Competition

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which barriers to entry to the market in the provision of bus services he has identified; and what steps he plans to take to remove the barriers identified. [138267]

Gillian Merron: We have not identified any regulatory barriers to entry to this market. Outside London, the bus market is deregulated. Any operator who holds a public service vehicle operator's licence, or a voluntary body that hold a community bus (section 22) permit, may register a bus service with the traffic commissioner and begin to operate it 56 days after the date of registration. In London, operators who hold such a licence or permit may tender for services in the London bus network.

Bus Services: Grants

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid to bus operators through the Bus Service Operators Grant in each year since 2000-01, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority and passenger transport executive areas. [138886]

Gillian Merron: The totals paid by the Department to bus operators in Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) since 2000-01 have been as follows:

£ million

	London	*England (excluding London)*	*Total*
2000-01	47.40	253.90	301.30
2001-02	55.90	248.40	304.30
2002-03	65.90	251.30	317.20
2003-04	80.50	261.20	341.50
2004-05	90.70	268.10	358.80
2005-06	95.30	274.20	369.50
2006-07	96.60	283.90	380.50

BSOG is paid direct to bus operators. Routes and operators cross local government boundaries and it is not possible to make sufficiently accurate estimates of the split of expenditure between local authority or passenger transport executive areas or regions, other than for London for which figures are given in the table.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the current rates are of the Bus Service Operators Grant scheme for each fuel type. [138888]

Gillian Merron: Bus Service Operators Grant rates are related to the fuel duty levied on the fuel concerned. The current rates, increased with effect from 7 December 2006, by fuel type.

	Pence per litre
Ultra low sulphur diesel	[1]39.21
Diesel	39.21
Sulphur free diesel	39.21
Ultra low sulphur petrol	36.83
Unleaded petrol	36.83
Sulphur free petrol	36.83
Biodiesel	28.35
Gas	[2]10.81

[1] This rate also applies to a 95 per cent. / 5 per cent. diesel/biodiesel blend
[2] Pence per kilogram

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rural bus services are supported by rural bus grants, broken down by local authority area. [138889]

Gillian Merron: The main grant by which the Department supports rural bus services is the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant. The following table shows the latest information provided by each local authority on the number of services supported by the grant (figures showing the position as at March 2007 will be available later this year).

The Department has also provided funding to projects successful in Rural Bus Challenge competitions held between 1998 and 2003. A total of £110 million was awarded to 301 projects. The majority of these are now continuing after their period of funding from the Challenge scheme. Details of the annual awards are on the Department's website.

Local authorities also support rural bus services from their own resources, including Revenue Support Grant.

Rural Bus Subsidy Grant

Local authority	*Services supported 2005-06*
Bath and NE Somerset	11
Bedfordshire	14
Blackburn with Darwen	3
Bracknell Forest	2
Brighton and Hove City	1
Bristol City	3
Buckinghamshire	44
Cambridgeshire	21
Cheshire	25
Cornwall	53
Cumbria	55
Darlington	3
Derbyshire	76
Devon	47
Dorset	29
Durham	50
East Riding of Yorkshire	78
East Sussex	28

Rural Bus Subsidy Grant

Local authority	*Services supported 2005-06*
Essex	30
Gloucestershire	80
Greater Manchester	17
Halton	1
Hampshire	31
Hartlepool	5
Herefordshire	26
Hertfordshire	14
Isle of Wight	16
Kent	80
Lancashire	27
Leicestershire	25
Lincolnshire	133
Medway	7
Merseyside	3
Middlesbrough	1
Milton Keynes	6
Norfolk	114
NE Lincolnshire	2
North Lincolnshire	27
North Somerset	13
North Yorkshire	83
Northamptonshire	39
Northumberland	62
Nottinghamshire	30
Oxfordshire	21
Peterborough City	7
Plymouth City	5
Borough of Poole	[1]—
Redcar and Cleveland	5
Rutland	5
Shropshire	34
Somerset	49
South Gloucestershire	18
South Yorkshire	25
Stockton-on-Tees	2
Stoke-on-Trent City	3
Staffordshire	56
Swindon Borough	4
Suffolk	72
Surrey	27
Telford and The Wrekin	5
Thurrock	1
Torbay Borough	2
Tyne and Wear	4
Warrington	3
Warwickshire	52
West Berkshire	9
West Midlands	6
West Sussex	21
West Yorkshire	53
Wiltshire	40
Windsor and Maidenhead	2
Wokingham	2
Worcestershire	53
City of York	7
Total	2,004

[1] Data for borough of Poole included in Dorset figure.

Note:

Figures for Buckinghamshire and Durham are estimated based on previous years returns.

Bus Stations

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus stations there are in England, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* passenger transport executive areas. [138887]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally.

Cycling: Highway Code

Dr. Strang: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the revised version of rule 47 of the Highway Code from cyclists and their representatives. [139094]

Dr. Ladyman: In the course of the public consultation on proposed changes to the Highway Code in 2006, DSA received a total of 2,612 comments on rule 58 in the consultation text (the equivalent of rule 47 in the current edition of the Highway Code and rule 61 in the proposed draft code laid in Parliament on 28 March 2007). 32 of these comments were from cycling organisations, 29 from other organisations, 10 from MPs and 2,541 from individuals who may or may not be cyclists. A summary of consultation responses, including those on cycling issues, was placed in the Libraries of both Houses when the proposed revised code was laid before Parliament on 28 March 2007. It is also available on line at:

www.dsa.gov.uk.

In addition to this consultation, we have since received correspondence from MPs, cycling organisations and individuals on this issue. The numbers of such queries have not been collected.

Dartford Tunnel: Fees and Charges

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the local discount scheme for residents living in the vicinity of the Dartford Crossing announced by his Department on 2 April 2007 following its consultation on changes to charges at the Dartford Crossing. [133223]

Dr. Ladyman: The Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing has brought huge benefits over the years. But surrounding communities have borne the brunt of the added pollution and congestion. The Department has registered the demand for local discounts expressed through the consultation exercise on the proposals set out in our document "Proposed Changes to Charges at The Dartford - Thurrock River Crossing". I have accepted in principle that there is a case for local discounts, alongside the implementation of the other proposals in the consultation paper.

The Department will now be considering how discounts can be delivered in a way that is fair and protects the interests of both local people and taxpayers. We will be consulting on detailed proposals later in the year. In the meantime the current charging system will continue unchanged.

The local discount scheme does not alter our plans for discounts for anyone who chooses to use a 'DART-Tag'. These drivers will be able to use the crossing for the current £1 cash charge regardless of where they live.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138460]

Gillian Merron: Details of the outside agencies and consultancies who are currently undertaking work commissioned by the Department are not held centrally and a complete list could be provided only at disproportionate cost. 399 different agencies and consultancies worked for the central Department and its agencies during financial year 2006-07 on commissions that have been recorded within the Department's accounting systems as consultancy.

The following are examples of some of the projects undertaken during 2006-07:

Technical consultancy for a digital tachograph project;

Study to Review Proposals for an In-Service Testing of Low Emission Diesel Engines;

Organisational Consultancy for the DVLA Local Office Directorate;

Advice in Connection with Development of a New DVLA Pay Structure;

Development of a Business Case for Automatic Number Plate Reader;

Development of a Business Case for Weigh in Motion Systems;

Traffic Officer Service Development;

Development of a Journey Time Reliability Measures;

Business Improvement Projects;

Transport Direct;

Cycling Demonstration Towns - to Measure Cycle Trips.

Departments: Driving Offences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department paid in *(a)* parking fines and *(b)* speeding fines in 2006. [126080]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport and its agencies maintain the policy that traffic violations such as parking tickets and speeding fines remain the responsibility of the individual, and are not reimbursed from public resources. The one exception to this is the Government Car and Despatch Agency which pays parking tickets when they arise operationally in circumstances where overriding security requirements necessarily dictate the choice of parking location. The GCDA are the Government's own services for moving people and documents safely and reliably throughout the UK. The amount paid by the GCDA in 2006 was £11,165.

Departments: Greater London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's responsibilities are with respect to London; what responsibilities he holds jointly with the Mayor of London; and if he will make a statement. [138514]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport provides national leadership across the transport sector, working with regional, local and private sector partners who deliver many of the services.

The Mayor of London's statutory responsibilities are set out in the Greater London Transport Act 1999. Transport for London (TfL) is responsible for implementing the Mayor's transport strategy. It manages the buses, the underground, the docklands light rail (DLR), Croydon tramline, a 580-kilometre network of main roads, all of London's 4,600 traffic lights and has a strategic role in traffic management. TfL also runs London river services, Victoria coach station, regulates taxis and the private hire trade and runs the dial-a-ride service for those who need door-to-door transport.

DfT provides a substantial transport grant to TfL—over £2.3 billion in 2006-07—to support the delivery of its transport objectives.

The Secretary of State and the Mayor of London, under the Railways Act 2005, have a duty to co-operate with regard to the provision of London rail passenger services.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [137665]

Gillian Merron: The number of staff in the Department for Transport classified as people without a post is suppressed on grounds of confidentiality as it is less than five.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137788]

Gillian Merron: The HM Treasury signed deals list identifies departmental managed projects that are 'on balance sheet'. This is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/EAF/pfi_signed_projects_list_april_2007.xls

The balance sheet presentation of Department for Transport 'on balance sheet' PFI projects is as follows:

Scheme	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*£ million 2006-07[1]*
DVLA Estates Rationalisation	—	—	—	0.60	2.71
M40	83.53	87.52	96.38	100.84	109.37
A19	56.08	58.76	64.71	67.70	73.43

Scheme	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ million 2006-07[1]
A30	156.87	164.37	181.02	189.38	205.41
A1(M)	225.59	236.38	260.31	272.35	295.39
A417/A419	117.85	123.49	135.99	142.27	154.31
A50	42.02	44.03	48.49	50.73	55.03
M1-A1	463.86	486.04	535.25	559.99	607.37
A69	22.08	23.14	25.48	26.66	28.92
A1 Darrington to Dishforth	—	—	—	74.01	217.57
A249 IWADE	—	—	—	—	82.96
NRTS	—	—	—	—	24.24
M6 Toll	—	91.79	90.16	99.29	111.65
Dartford Crossing	538.89	560.47	573.10	599.06	590.32
Severn Crossing	758.20	787.83	805.64	842.17	875.13
NTCC	—	—	46.71	47.03	35.10

[1] Unaudited

Notes:

1. The values shown are at the original public sector comparator costs for the new build component of each contract indexed for each individual year except as described in the following notes.
2. A1 Darrington to Dishforth, A249 and NTCC are valued using the base cost estimate supplied by the concessionaire at the tender stage, indexed for each individual contract. 3. NRTS reflects the value of work completed to date.
4. Severn Crossing reflects the value of both structures and is based on professional valuations indexed for each year.
5. Dartford Crossing reflects the value of the tunnels and the bridge and is based on professional valuations for each year.
6. These valuations are taken from the Highways Agency published accounts and may differ from those published in the Treasury signed deals list, which are valued at the public sector procuring body's estimate of the capital value of the property the private sector purchases or creates for delivering services under a PFI.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years. [137789]

Gillian Merron: The capital value and revenue budget for Department for Transport PFI projects is available and updated at six monthly intervals through the HM Treasury Signed Deals list. The information is published on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/EAF/0A/pfi_signed_projects_list_april_2007.xls

All payments to the contractor will come from the revenue budgets.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what value of annual private finance initiative payments by his Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137790]

Gillian Merron: All payments made under PFI are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

For information on the value of each project, I would refer the hon. Member to the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/EAF/0A/pfi_signed_projects_list_april_2007.xls

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments by his Department was *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137791]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not retain information on how PFI payments have been used by the contractor to repay capital or for other purposes. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Highways Agency has undertaken its own estimate of capital repayments on its projects and a table has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many telephone helplines are sponsored by his Department with the prefix *(a)* 0870 and *(b)* 0845; and whether alternative geographic numbers are available in each case. [138489]

Gillian Merron: The requested details on 0870 and 0845 telephone helplines in the Department for Transport are as follows:

	Number of 0845 and 0870 helplines	Services accessed from each	Whether alternative geographic numbers available
Department for Transport (Central)	0	—	—
DVLA	[1]17	Information services, automated self services, technical helpdesks, reporting unlicensed vehicles	No, apart from one general switchboard for public use
DSA	[1]4	All related to practical and theory driving test bookings	No

	Number of 0845 and 0870 helplines	Services accessed from each	Whether alternative geographic numbers available
HA	[2]4	HA information line and central switchboard traffic England phone service and publications	Only the 0845 lines have corresponding 0121 numbers
MCA	[1]1	MCA Infoline	No
VGA	0	—	—
VOSA	[3]3	Public hotline, operator licence credit card payment and national number	All also have geographical numbers available as contact numbers
GCDA	0	—	—

[1] All 0870.
[2] Two are 0845 and two are 0870.
[3] One is 0845 and two are 0870.

Fares: Technology

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 194W, on fares: technology, when he expects to complete the consultation and discussions with suppliers. [138512]

Gillian Merron: We anticipate that we will complete the consultation and discussions with suppliers in August.

Galileo Project

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his latest estimate is of the *(a)* final costs and *(b)* completion date of the Galileo satellite system. [138751]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Crewe and Nantwich (Mrs. Dunwoody) on 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1353-54W.

Galileo Project: Armed Forces

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his latest estimate is of the number of military users there will be of the Galileo satellite system. [138750]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* Galileo remains a civil programme under civil control. This has repeatedly been confirmed by the EU Transport Council; most recently in its October 2006 Council Conclusions. Therefore, no such assessment has been made. However, Galileo's open service, like that of GPS, can be accessed by all and therefore could be used by military forces.

Great Western Trains: Suicide

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* attempts at and *(b)* acts of suicide took place on the First Great Western rail network in the West Country in the last (i) 12, (ii) 24 and (iii) 36 months; and if he will make a statement. [138821]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Liverpool Lime Street Station: Repairs and Maintenance

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects the planned improvements to Liverpool Lime Street railway station to be completed by the end of 2007; and if he will make a statement. [138989]

Mr. Tom Harris: Yes. Work being undertaken to provide for improvements to Liverpool Lime Street station, funded by Merseytravel Passenger Transport Executive (Merseytravel) and delivered by Network Rail, is due for completion before the end of 2007.

Motorcycles: Accidents

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured when riding a mini moto with 50 cc or less capacity in each year since 1997. [139718]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 9 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 248W.

Motorcycles: Speed Limits

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations apply to the provision of speedometers on motorcycles registered for use on public roads in the UK. [139645]

Dr. Ladyman: Regulations 35 and 36 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, EC Directive 2000/7/EC and UN-ECE Regulation 39 are the regulations which apply to the provision of speedometers on motorcycles registered for use on public roads in Great Britain.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether speedometers fitted to motorcycles registered for use on public roads in the UK must be furnished with markings indicating speed in miles per hour; and whether provision must be made for those markings to be properly lit so as to be visible when the machines are driven during the hours of darkness and in low-light conditions. [139646]

Dr. Ladyman: Regulation 35 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, as amended requires that motorcycles first used on or after 1 April 1984 shall be fitted with a speedometer which is capable of showing speed in both miles per hour and kilometres per hour, either simultaneously or by the operation of a switch.

Speedometers on vehicles must also meet either the requirements of EC Directive 2007/7/EC and UN-ECE Regulation 39 or be approved to meet the requirements of the Motor Cycles Etc (Single Vehicle Approval) Regulations 2003. These regulations require that the speedometer display must be clearly legible both by day and by night.

National Roads Telecommunications Services Project

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* budget is of the National Roads Telecommunications Services Project. [137708]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency's national telecommunications network has reached the end of its useful life, is costly to maintain, needs modernising and has insufficient capacity to meet its future known requirements. The National Roads Telecommunications Project (NRTS) has been developed to remedy this.

The existing networks transmit messages between the Agency's regional control centres and 14,000 devices on the roadside such as CCTV cameras and variable messages signs. The 32 networks have been built over the last thirty years to the Agency's bespoke designs. The NRTS project is to upgrade those existing transmission networks and to combine them into one. As well as providing additional capacity, the new digital network provides resilience: using internet technology, messages will automatically re-route following any break in the network. The new technology is freely available in the market-place, making it easier to maintain.

An end-to-end capability across the whole of England gives the network operator single point responsibility and a 10-year contract incentivises him to consider the whole life costs and to consider the whole of the network when planning improvements .

The committed cost is £490 million.

Railways: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of *(a)* peak and *(b)* off peak (i) daily, (ii) return, (iii) weekly, (iv) monthly and (v) yearly tickets for an adult travelling between (A) Portsmouth and Waterloo via Eastleigh and (B) Southampton and Waterloo in each year since 1997. [138787]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not have this information for each year since 1997. The following information is for January 2003, 2005, 2006, and January and May 2007.

Portsmouth-Waterloo via Eastleigh

£

As at January:	*2003*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2007*
Standard Day Single	20.40	22.10	23.00	24.00	24.00
Standard Day Return	39.10	42.30	44.00	46.80	46.80
Super-off-peak Return	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26.00
Cheap Day Return	21.10	22.80	23.90	25.20	28.70
Standard Weekly Season Ticket	76.70	83.10	87.30	91.10	91.10
Standard Monthly Season Ticket	294.60	319.20	335.30	349.90	349.90
Standard Annual Season Ticket	3,068.00	3,324.00	3,492.00	3,644.00	3,644.00

Southampton-Waterloo

£

As at January:	*2003*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2007*
Standard Day Single	23.30	25.30	26.30	27.40	27.40
Standard Day Return	42.90	46.50	48.30	51.40	51.40
Super-off-peak Return	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	28.00
Cheap Day Return	22.70	24.60	25.80	27.20	34.60
Standard Weekly Season Ticket	83.30	90.20	94.70	98.80	98.80
Standard Monthly Season Ticket	319.90	346.40	363.70	379.40	379.40
Standard Annual Season Ticket	3,332.00	3,608.00	3,788.00	3,952.00	3,952.00

Railways: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage increase in *(a)* capacity and *(b)* seats on trains from Milton Keynes are expected to result from the introduction of the new platform at that station. [138607]

Mr. Tom Harris: The enlarged station at Milton Keynes Central station enables a 33 per cent. increase in the number of long-distance services compared with a situation if the station had not been improved. Seating capacity is also likely to increase by a similar percentage.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals for a direct shuttle to Central Milton Keynes utilising the two spare hourly fast track slots once the new platform is complete. [138608]

Mr. Tom Harris: There will be no spare capacity on the fast lines between Milton Keynes and London Euston, to provide the service sought by the hon. Member.

Road Traffic: Accidents

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library tables showing the traffic levels and accident rates for the Highways Agency Targeted Programme of Improvement road schemes in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of likely levels of traffic and rates of accidents after construction works are completed. [138891]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency is currently working on updating tables which will provide the information requested on traffic levels and road traffic accidents. This work is expected to be completed in advance of summer recess.

I will write to the hon. Member with the information when it is available and place a copy of my letter, and the tables in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* UK licence holders and *(b)* foreign licence holders were involved in (i) fatal road traffic accidents, (ii) serious road traffic accidents and (iii) minor road traffic accidents in each year since 1997. [139564]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles were involved in *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious and *(c)* minor road traffic accidents in each year since 1997, broken down by number and proportion of categories of vehicle. [139575]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of vehicles in reported personal injury road accidents by accident severity broken down by number and proportion of vehicle type is given in the tables.

Number of vehicles involved in reported personal injury road accidents by vehicle type and accident severity, GB: 1997 to 2005

Number of vehicles

Accident severity	*Vehicle type*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Fatal	Pedal cycle	199	167	187	141	145	141	124	144	158
	Motorcycle	570	570	617	695	673	694	783	659	620
	Car	3,979	3,714	3,634	3,516	3,654	3,728	3,773	3,520	3,465
	Bus or coach	129	136	139	136	164	125	119	121	108
	LGV	309	290	262	279	302	296	320	267	261
	HGV	572	595	617	565	588	570	533	472	520
	Other motor vehicle	63	81	83	91	74	87	86	80	62
	Other non-motor vehicle	14	11	5	6	12	4	12	10	8
	Total	5,836	5,564	5,547	5,433	5,614	5,647	5,753	5,276	5,204
Serious	Pedal cycle	3,596	3,318	3,164	2,796	2,678	2,442	2,420	2,272	2,339
	Motorcycle	6,263	6,294	6,674	7,119	7,094	7,226	7,319	6,400	6,234
	Car	44,162	41,627	39,428	38,071	37,091	35,835	33,139	30,896	28,664
	Bus or coach	1,387	1,351	1,344	1,313	1,269	1,267	1,200	1,116	1,023
	LGV	2,858	2,823	2,414	2,341	2,358	2,258	2,189	1,940	1,819
	HGV	2,615	2,482	2,468	2,468	2,322	2,122	1,923	1,670	1,648
	Other motor vehicle	599	582	664	683	515	627	477	616	381
	Other non-motor vehicle	85	62	79	82	79	74	85	80	63
	Total	61,575	58,561	56,267	54,903	53,441	51,862	48,763	45,001	42,176
Slight	Pedal cycle	21,405	19,938	20,131	18,118	16,674	14,949	14,928	14,668	14,542
	Motorcycle	18,378	18,650	19,831	21,422	22,317	21,583	21,421	19,798	19,016
	Car	290,783	292,453	286,804	288,259	281,155	275,005	263,021	257,426	249,681
	Bus or coach	9,725	10,275	10,405	10,284	10,088	9,389	9,620	9,336	8,857
	LGV	16,903	16,970	15,376	15,051	15,654	15,201	14,977	13,521	13,998
	HGV	11,198	11,449	12,106	12,161	11,903	10,788	10,717	10,374	9,952
	Other motor vehicle	2,704	2,830	3,535	3,777	2,662	3,472	2,481	4,091	2,464

Number of vehicles involved in reported personal injury road accidents by vehicle type and accident severity, GB: 1997 to 2005

Number of vehicles

Accident severity	*Vehicle type*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
	Other non-motor vehicle	312	279	318	337	340	288	250	295	254
	Total	371,466	372,980	368,678	369,607	361,018	350,816	337,506	329,568	318,856

Percentage of vehicles involved in reported personal injury road accidents by vehicle type and severity of accident, GB: 1997 to 2005

Percentage of vehicles

Severity	*Vehicle type*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Fatal	Pedal cycle	3.4	3.0	3.4	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.7	3.0
	Motorcycle	9.8	10.2	11.1	12.8	12.0	12.3	13.6	12.5	11.9
	Car	68.2	66.8	65.5	64.7	65.1	66.0	65.6	66.7	66.6
	Bus or coach	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.1
	LGV	5.3	5.2	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.6	5.1	5.0
	HGV	9.8	10.7	11.1	10.4	10.5	10.1	9.3	8.9	10.0
	Other motor vehicle	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.2
	Other non-motor vehicle	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Serious	Pedal cycle	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.1	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.5
	Motorcycle	10.2	10.7	11.9	13.0	13.3	13.9	15.0	14.2	14.8
	Car	71.7	71.1	70.1	69.3	69.4	69.1	68.0	68.7	68.0
	Bus or coach	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4
	LGV	4.6	4.8	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.3
	HGV	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.9
	Other motor vehicle	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.4	0.9
	Other non-motor vehicle	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Slight	Pedal cycle	5.8	5.3	5.5	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6
	Motorcycle	4.9	5.0	5.4	5.8	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.0	6.0
	Car	78.3	78.4	77.8	78.0	77.9	78.4	77.9	78.1	78.3
	Bus or coach	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.8
	LGV	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.4
	HGV	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1
	Other motor vehicle	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.2	0.8
	Other non-motor vehicle	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious and *(c)* minor road traffic accidents involved a foreign-registered car in each year since 1997. [139609]

Dr. Ladyman: The number and percentage of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one foreign registered car in 2005 is given in the following table.

Reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one foreign registered car, GB: 2005

Accident severity	*Number of accidents*	*Percentage of all reported accidents*
Fatal	15	0.5
Serious	84	0.3
Slight	730	0.4

This information is not available for years prior to 2005.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of people aged *(a)* 17 to 23, *(b)* 24 to 29, *(c)* 30 to 39, *(d)* 40 to 49, *(e)* 50 to 59, *(f)* 60 to 69, *(g)* 70 to 79, *(h)* 80 to 89 and (i) over 90 years were involved in (i) minor accidents, (ii) serious and (iii) fatal road traffic accidents in each year since 1997. [139669]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is given in the following table.

Percentage of population involved in reported personal injury road accidents, by age and severity: GB 1997 to 2005

Percentage of population[1]

	Severity	17 to 23	24 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	Age 90 and over
1997	Fatal	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.01
	Serious	0.18	0.12	0.09	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.03
	Slight	1.20	0.86	0.62	0.43	0.33	0.24	0.21	0.18	0.09
1998	Fatal	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Serious	0.17	0.11	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.03
	Slight	1.17	0.86	0.63	0.44	0.33	0.24	0.21	0.18	0.10
1999	Fatal	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Serious	0.15	0.10	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.03
	Slight	1.11	0.84	0.63	0.44	0.33	0.24	0.20	0.18	0.10
2000	Fatal	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Serious	0.15	0.10	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.03
	Slight	1.10	0.83	0.64	0.45	0.34	0.24	0.20	0.17	0.09
2001	Fatal	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Serious	0.15	0.10	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.03
	Slight	1.07	0.79	0.62	0.45	0.32	0.24	0.20	0.18	0.10
2002	Fatal	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.07
	Serious	0.15	0.10	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02
	Slight	1.05	0.76	0.60	0.44	0.32	0.23	0.20	0.17	0.10
2003	Fatal	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Serious	0.14	0.09	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02
	Slight	0.99	0.73	0.57	0.43	0.30	0.23	0.19	0.17	0.10
2004	Fatal	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Serious	0.13	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
	Slight	0.97	0.70	0.54	0.41	0.30	0.21	0.18	0.17	0.09
2005	Fatal	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Serious	0.12	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Slight	0.94	0.68	0.52	0.40	0.29	0.20	0.17	0.16	0.09

[1] 10.00 per cent. indicates that less than 0.005 per cent. of the age group were involved in accidents of the given severity.

The percentages are estimated by dividing the total number of reported casualties in each age group by the GB population estimate for 2005. Casualties will be counted more than once if they are in more than one accident.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatal, (b) serious and *(c)* minor road traffic accidents were recorded in each year since 1997. [139682]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of reported personal injury road accidents by severity for each year since 1997 is given in the table.

Number of accidents by severity, GB: 1997-2005

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	All severities
1997	3,298	36,330	200,659	240,287
1998	3,137	34,633	201,153	238,923
1999	3,138	33,267	198,643	235,048
2000	3,108	32,499	198,122	233,729
2001	3,176	31,588	194,250	229,014

Number of accidents by severity, GB: 1997-2005

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	All severities
2002	3,124	30,521	188,106	221,751
2003	3,247	28,913	181,870	214,030
2004	2,978	26,748	177,684	207,410
2005	2,913	25,029	170,793	198,735

Roads: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* businesses in the London borough of Bexley on road pricing. [139554]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has received a considerable number of representations about road pricing. Many of these were by e-mail, and did not give the sender's geographical address.

Roads: Horses

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents were reported involving *(a)* horses and *(b)* horse riders in each of the last three years. [139290]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one ridden horse in each of the last three years for which information is available, is given in the table.

Reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one ridden horse, GB: 2003-05

	Number of accidents
2003	153
2004	138
2005	136

Reported personal injury road accidents involving horses without riders are not separately identifiable.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cost increases he approved for Government-funded road schemes in the Local Transport Plans programme in each year since 2000. [138904]

Gillian Merron: Details of local authority major Road schemes that have had cost increases approved between 2000 and July 2006 are available in Appendix Three of the National Audit Office report—Department for Transport: Estimating and Monitoring the Costs of Building Roads in England—published on 15 March 2007. A copy of the report can be downloaded from the following website link:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/06-07/0607321.pdf

Since July 2006, we have also approved cost increases on the following local major road schemes:

Rugby Western Relief Road
Owen Street Level Crossing Relief Road
Sheffield Northern Inner Relief Road
Sunderland Southern Radial Route
Glasshoughton Coalfields Link Road
Brierley Hill Access Network
M4 Junction 11/Mereoak Roundabout
Hemsworth to A1 Link Road
A688 Wheatley Hill to Bowburn Link Road
Taunton Third Way and Northern Inner Distributor Road
Carlisle Northern Development Route.

Roads: Safety

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations have been received by his Department from local authorities for road safety improvements *(a)* in Elkesley village, *(b)* on the A57 in Worksop and *(c)* on the A620 in Bassetlaw. [138828]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department is not aware that it has any current road safety improvement representations from local authorities in respect of Elkesley village, the A57 Worksop or the A620 Bassetlaw. The Highways Agency continues its work to develop improvements for access to Elkesley village and is in regular touch with the Local Highway Authority on this matter.

Transport

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average *(a)* number and *(b)* distance of trips as calculated by the National Travel Survey was by (i) car driver, (ii) car passenger, (iii) bus passenger, (iv) pedestrian and (v) other modes of transport user, broken down by (A) reasons for journey, (B) sex and (C) age, in the latest three-year period for which results are available. [138890]

Gillian Merron: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Transport: Costs

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus and *(c)* train since 1997. [138885]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1701W.

Transport: North East Region

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to improve the transport infrastructure of the *(a)* north-east region, *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region and *(c)* Hartlepool constituency for the purpose of (i) facilitating economic growth, (ii) reducing environmental damage and (iii) widening access to services and opportunities to the population. [138655]

Gillian Merron: On 6 July 2006 the Secretary of State confirmed 16 major road and public transport schemes in the north-east that we expected to fund from regional funding allocations (RFA) between 2006-07 and 2008-09. Three of them are located in the Tees Valley.

Also included was an indicative list of three schemes that can be progressed for delivery in the remaining RFA years, from 2009-10 to 2015-16. Elements of the Tees Valley bus network scheme are located in Hartlepool. Funding will, of course, be subject to schemes securing all necessary statutory powers, demonstrating sufficient value for money, and being supported by a satisfactory business case.

Decision letters for local transport plans covering the period 2007 to 2011 were issued last December. The north-east authorities were awarded a total of £141.382 million to fund capital improvements. The proportion allocated to the Tees Valley authorities is £32.079 million, including £4.459 million to Hartlepool borough council.

In addition, the Government are supporting both Durham county council (£400,000) and the Tyne and Wear authorities (£1.7 million) with pump-priming funding to support the development of Transport Innovation Fund (TIP) packages that address local congestion problems by combining demand management, including road pricing, with better public transport.

Also, the Department has regular discussions with the Highways Agency about all proposed improvement schemes for the A1 in the north-east and the Secretary of State has recently agreed that they should continue the development work on the A1 Newcastle/Gateshead western bypass scheme.

All of the transport initiatives are being developed with a view to delivering the Government's shared agenda of tackling congestion, delivering improved accessibility, providing safer roads and better air quality, as well as tackling other quality of life issues. Together, these objectives would contribute to facilitating economic growth, reducing environmental damage and widening access to services and opportunities to the population.

Wolverton Station: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why a deadline has been set on when the grant of £400,000 for the upgrade of Wolverton station must be spent. [138610]

Mr. Tom Harris: The deadline for the use of grants, provided under the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF), was one of the conditions made clear at the start of the process, taking account of the overall availability of Government support, in each financial year, for transport related projects.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what effect the recent reduction in funding for the upgrade of station facilities at Wolverton station will have on the project. [138613]

Mr. Tom Harris: There has been no reduction in funding. The allocation of funding within the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) grant was matter for Milton Keynes council to determine in conjunction with Network Rail.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons were for the reduction in funds for the planned upgrade of Wolverton station. [138620]

Mr. Tom Harris: There has been no reduction in funding. The allocation of funds awarded under a bid, from the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF), for Milton Keynes Central and Wolverton stations was the responsibility of Milton Keynes council.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is taking to stop the production of heroin in Afghanistan. [138241]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Mr. McCartney) gave to the hon. Member for Ceredigion (Mark Williams) on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 908W.

Australia: Entry Clearances

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Australian and *(b)* New Zealand nationals successfully applied for UK tourist visas in each of the last five years. [138174]

Dr. Howells: Australian and New Zealand nationals do not need visas to enter the UK as visitors.

BBC External Services

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much money the BBC World Service spent on services in each language in which it broadcasts *(a)* from her Department's precept and *(b)* in total in each of the last three financial years. [139147]

Mr. Hoon: BBC World Service (BBCWS) analysis of its spending for each language service in financial year (FY) 2006-07 is set out below. Foreign and Commonwealth Office grant-in-aid funds all BBCWS language services. BBCWS is unable to present comparable data for the previous years requested by the hon. Member because of changes in accounting procedures, specifically the way its central costs are allocated. To provide figures that are both meaningful and comparable would require a comprehensive reworking of its financial information for previous years. This would incur disproportionate cost.

BBCWS analysis of operating grant-in-aid 2006-07

	£ million
Africa and Middle East	
French For Africa	1.8
African English	3.3
Great Lakes	0.4
Hausa Service	0.9
Portuguese	0.7
Somali	0.7
Swahili	1.0
Arabic (TV budget shown separately)	8.9

BBCWS analysis of operating grant-in-aid 2006-07

	£ million
Americas and Europe	
Brazilian	1.7
Latin American	3.8
Caribbean	0.4
Albanian	1.1
Romanian	1.3
Macedonian	0.4
Serbian	1.1
Turkish	1.0
Ukrainian	1.2
Russian	4.6
Asia Pacific	
Chinese	3.2
Bengali	0.9
Hindi	1.6
Nepali	0.3
Sinhala	0.3
Tamil	0.3
Urdu	3.0
Burmese	0.7
Indonesian	1.2
Vietnamese	0.7
Uzbek	0.6
Azeri	0.6
Kazakh	0.1
Kyrgyz	0.2
Persian/Pashto	5.8
Total	53.7
Arabic TV (rising to £19 million in FY 2007-08)	9.0
English production, presentation and commissioning	48.7
Transmission	37.8
New Media	8.5
Finance, Property and provisions (including redundancy)	26.1
Marketing	6.2
Technology support	13.3
HR and Training	4.4
Direction, Strategy and other	4.3
Total expenditure	212.0

Grant-in-aid 2006-07

	Operating	*Capital*	£ million *Total*
Grant in aid 2005-06	208.1	31	239.1
Additional funding from SR2004	6.5	0	6.5
Vires from capital (ex £31 million total capital grant)	3.5	-3.5	0.0
BBC Monitoring Transfer to Cabinet Office	-6.1	0	-6.1
	212.0	27.5	239.5

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by her Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138461]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Annual expenditure on external consultants is published in the Department's annual reports, copies of which are in the Library of the House. The vast majority of work undertaken for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by consultants is associated with its major Information Communication Technology and Estate construction programmes.

I also refer the right. hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester East (Keith Vaz) on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 893-94W; and the reply my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 138W.

Departments: Languages

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what effect she expects the outsourcing of her Department's language teaching operation to have on costs. [138898]

Mr. Hoon: We anticipate savings of £1.5 million per annum.

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how her Department will determine which language providers to use under the new language teaching business model. [138900]

Mr. Hoon: A procurement team will oversee the purchasing of language training from new suppliers in accordance with Government guidelines during the tendering and evaluation process. Our objective is to set up a framework agreement with at least two possible suppliers for each foreign language. Maintaining a high standard of language training will be a priority.

To ensure high quality we will build into the contract specification rigorous standards and processes, covering academic calibre of staff; teaching methodology; range and depth of programmes; external accreditation and recognition of widely known benchmark standards; and customer-focused administrative and learning resource support. Quality assurance mechanisms will monitor that standards are being met, including through briefing, training and performance management of teachers and continuous assessment of students.

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what evidential basis she reached the conclusion that the language teaching function would be uneconomic for her Department to operate. [138901]

Mr. Hoon: As preparation for its move towards Trading Fund status, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services carried out a rigorous analysis of its business and competitive environment, to identify its strengths and weaknesses and the opportunities and threats it faces as it becomes a commercially-focused organisation. This, taken together with the FCO's own policy review of language training, which was carried out in close consultation with a variety of stakeholders at all levels across the FCO, has informed us that:

the business demand for language training is changing from one-to-one to group training, a much more effective way of delivering tuition, involving four hours per day direct teaching time;

demand for all languages fluctuates considerably;

the recommended productivity of teaching staff (percentage of time spent teaching as opposed to other tasks e.g. lesson and exam preparation, producing materials, administration, pastoral care and liaising with overseas centres) is between 45 and 50 per cent. Very few languages attain this level and productivity is likely to fall below 30 per cent. in most languages with the move to group classes and more in-country training;

a flexible hours and agency model operating on a "pay per use" basis achieves good productivity rates. Most external providers employ this model because of the fluctuations in demand;

FCO language training costs on average 15-40 per cent. more than other providers;

40 per cent. of our existing teaching for priority languages is currently out-sourced despite our large in-house teaching staff; and

performance by exam results indicates that the quality of teaching is not enhanced by having a permanent workforce.

For all of these reasons, we consider that not only are there advantages in cost terms of moving to a new business model, but there are also advantages to be gained in terms of flexibility and quality of service.

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many departmental staff were trained in a foreign language in each of the last three years for which figures are available; in how many languages training was available in each year; and what proportion of training was carried out overseas in each year. [138902]

Mr. Hoon: The number of staff receiving language training was:

Financial year	*Number of staff*
2006-07	252
2005-06	386
2004-05	405

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has permanent teachers in 14 languages:

Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Serbian/Bosnian/Croatian, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Ukrainian and Spanish.

The FCO also employs lecturers on a flexible basis in a further 27 languages:

Arabic, Bulgarian, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Farsi, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish and Ukrainian.

The FCO had no in-house teaching capability in eight of the 22 FCO priority languages; Pashtu, Dari, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Burmese, Urdu, Cantonese and Thai: training in these languages was outsourced.

The proportion of training carried out overseas varies according to the difficulty of the language. Easier languages will normally include a period of around four weeks in-country; the most difficult languages have one year training in the UK and one year training in-country.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in her Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137796]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has one private finance initiative (PFI) project included in its balance sheet—our embassy in Berlin. The total capital value reported in HM Treasury's list of signed PFI projects is £17.1 million.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by her Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years. [137797]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has two private finance initiative projects for which it has made the following payments from revenue budgets in the last five years, as reported in the HM Treasury list of signed deals.

	£ million
2002-03	30.44
2003-04	34.40
2004-05	35.57
2005-06	36.92
2006-07	[1]34.39

[1] Estimated.

Embassies: Telephone Services

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what revenue was received by her Department from the telephone inquiries lines at British embassies handled by Abtran in the last 12 months. [139141]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) received no income from the telephone inquiry lines handled by Abtran Ltd in the last 12 months. The service the company provides is self-funding and the surplus they make enables them to run it at no cost to the FCO.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects UK Visas to respond to the letter from Mr Richard Helgesen (ref GV100/115242/PC). [139652]

Dr. Howells: UK Visas sent an initial response to Mr Richard Helgesen's letter on 14 May. The letter explained that they need to make further enquiries before they can provide Mr Helgesen with a full reply.

European Council

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether proceedings in the European Council are sound recorded on tape. [138492]

Mr. Hoon: Proceedings in the European Council are not recorded on tape. The presidency conclusions of the European Council are made public by the Council Secretariat and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister describes the processes to Parliament.

Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to meet the Gibraltar Chief Minister in the next 12 months. [139064]

Mr. Hoon: There are currently no plans for either my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary or myself to meet the Chief Minister. Ministerial diaries and engagements are kept under constant review.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times she has met the Chief Minister of Gibraltar in the last 12 months. [139065]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not met the Chief Minister in the last 12 months. I met the Chief Minister most recently on the occasion of the Gibraltar day reception in the City of London in October 2006, and have regular contact with him.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she plans to attend National Day in Gibraltar in September 2007. [139066]

Mr. Hoon: Foreign travel and engagements for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers are kept under constant review. It is not practice to announce such visits until they are firm. Because of the unpredictable nature of world events, final decisions on overseas visits are not often possible until very shortly before the day of travel.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she has taken to ensure that Gibraltar is effectively represented within the EU. [139068]

Mr. Hoon: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other Government Departments work closely with the Government of Gibraltar to promote and defend Gibraltar's rights and interests within the EU, often (but not exclusively) through active interventions by the UK Permanent Representation in Brussels.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to ensure that Gibraltar has the same access to EU funding as other EU regions. [139069]

Mr. Hoon: Gibraltar has its own constitutional self-government and separate economy. It is a territory for whose external affairs a member state is responsible in accordance with Article 299(4) of the Treaty establishing the European Community. Therefore, Gibraltar is entitled to receive EU structural funds from the UK member state's allocation.

Gibraltar's allocation of Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective funding was based on the same formulas as were applied to the nine English Regions. Allocations under the Co-operation objective are determined by a formula set out in the structural funds general regulations.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the government of Gibraltar received from the European Union in each of the past five years. [139070]

Mr. Hoon: Gibraltar has received the following funds from the European Union over the past five years:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Objective 2 The European Regional Development Fund (Regional Development)	37,951.51	927,980.70	242,942.74	1,453,210.04	1,099,544.22	3,761,629.21
Objective 3 European Social Fund (Social Funds)	7,879.00	445,103.00	22,901.00	1,386,016.00	384,395.00	2,246,294.00
Interreg IIIA (Gibraltar /Morocco)	18,535.78	2,025.23	0.00	32,865.04	9,041.78	62,467.83
Total	64,366.29	1,375,108.93	265,843.74	2,872,091.08	1,492,981.00	6,070,391.04

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact of the new air terminal development on the relationship between Spain and Gibraltar. [139072]

Mr. Hoon: The construction of a new airport terminal by the Gibraltar Government forms part of the arrangements agreed in the Cordoba Ministerial Statement on Gibraltar airport on 18 September 2006 under the Trilateral Forum of Dialogue on Gibraltar.

The Cordoba trilateral agreements, including the proposed new terminal, have already brought significant benefits, including more connections from Gibraltar airport, greatly improved border flows,

recognition of Gibraltar's international dialling code and mobile roaming, as well as a settlement of the long-standing issue of the pensions of former Spanish workers in Gibraltar. Overall, this has brought a considerable improvement in the relationship between Spain and Gibraltar.

Gibraltar: Territorial Waters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her *(a)* Spanish and *(b)* Gibraltarian counterparts on Gibraltar's sovereign territorial waters. [139067]

Mr. Hoon: Neither my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary nor I have had discussions with our Spanish counterparts or the Government of Gibraltar on this matter.

Gulf War

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354, on the Gulf war, whether any assessment has been made of the administration system used for the UN Compensation Commission Iraq compensation awards. [137432]

Dr. Howells: The UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) claims processing procedures were prescribed by the Security Council and were further elaborated by the Governing Council in a number of decisions. The procedures were implemented by panels of Commissioners whose recommendations for awards were approved by the UNCC's Governing Council. Further details of the claims processing procedures can be found at the UNCC's website:

http://www.unog.ch/uncc/.

The Government have not made any formal assessment of the administration system used by the UNCC. However, we understand that overpayments were made for a variety of reasons such as claims being submitted twice by the same applicant. Other claims were paid out twice to the same claimant because they featured in different claims categories due to administrative errors at the UNCC.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354, on the Gulf war, what factors informed the decision to use Iraqi oil revenues to pay for UN Compensation Commission-approved compensation awards; and when that decision was taken. [137433]

Dr. Howells: The UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) was established in 1991 by Security Council Resolution 687 to process claims and pay compensation for losses suffered as a result of the 1990 Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

Currently 5 per cent. of the proceeds of Iraq's oil export revenues are paid into the Compensation Fund. The use of these oil revenues was recommended by the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council in 1991 as the method by which Iraq should pay compensation.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354, on the Gulf war, what explanation has been given by the UN Compensation Commission for errors made in the calculation and payment of compensation relating to Iraq. [137434]

Dr. Howells: In 2006 the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) conducted an internal investigation aimed at identifying potential overpayments resulting from multiple or overlapping claims.

We understand that the overpayments occurred for a variety of reasons. Some resulted from claims that were erroneously submitted twice by the same claimant. Other claims were paid out twice to the same claimant because they featured in different claims categories due to administrative errors at the UNCC.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354, on the Gulf war, what the total amount in dispute is on the UN Compensation Commission awards which have been approved but have not been paid or are being reclaimed. [137435]

Dr. Howells: Corrections made as a result of the investigation into overpayments totalled US$ 80.3 million of which US$ 72.7 million remains still to be recovered. Approximately US$ 39 million of this sum will be recoverable by way of set-offs against Government awards not yet paid out. 113 UK claimants were overpaid a total of US$ 391,000.

Iraq: International Conferences

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the recent International Conference on Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [138243]

Dr. Howells: I warmly welcome the successful launch of the International Compact and the expanded Iraq neighbours conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on 3-4 May.

The launch of the International Compact was an important opportunity for the Government of Iraq to set out its reform agenda. Over 60 countries were represented and offered their support. We now look forward to the UN and Government of Iraq establishing a mechanism to monitor progress.

The neighbours conference was a significant step in building Iraq's relationship with its neighbours. Participants agreed that there should be a further ministerial in Istanbul; working groups to explore co-ordination and co-operation on the problem of refugees, security and borders, and fuel imports; and, subject to approval by the Government of Iraq, the establishment of a group of senior officials to monitor progress. We will encourage all participants to use these forums constructively and to demonstrate tangible support for the Government of Iraq.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1712W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, how many requests there have been for assistance from British overseas posts by Iraqi nationals who have left Iraq after threats of violence because of their work as interpreters with the British Army; and how many of these requests have been agreed to. [137692]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of having received two requests for assistance on behalf of three Iraqi nationals who left Iraq after threats of violence because of their work as interpreters with the British Army (one joint letter received in our embassy in Damascus, and one request received in our embassy in Cairo). However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold a central record of this information. To answer this question accurately officials would need to contact all of our overseas posts, which would incur disproportionate cost.

As I said in my response to my hon. Friend on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 914W, all requests for assistance are dealt with on a case by case basis, taking account of individual circumstances.

Iraq: Security Guards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many contraventions of Coalition Provisional Authority memorandum number 17 by private military companies operating in Iraq there were in each year since it came into force, broken down by type of contravention; [138809]

(2) how many individuals in Iraq were killed by employees of *(a)* UK-registered and *(b)* other private military companies in each year since the invasion. [138810]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* We keep records only of incidents involving private military security companies (PMSCs) working directly for the Government. We do not keep records of incidents involving other UK mainland registered companies or foreign companies working in Iraq.

The PMSCs which operate or have operated for the Government in Iraq (ArmorGroup, GardaWorld and Control Risks Group) have been responsible for no contraventions of Coalition Provisional Authority memorandum number 17. There has been one Iraqi fatality as a result of a road traffic accident in Erbil on 8 March. A pedestrian was struck by a PMSC vehicle while crossing a busy road in heavy traffic. The incident was fully investigated by the local authorities and no charges were bought.

Iraq: Trade Unions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of the raids on 23 and 25 February by US and Iraqi forces on the head offices of the General Federation of Iraqi Workers; what representations she has made on the recognition of trade union rights in Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [136689]

Dr. Howells: As stated in my answer to my hon. Friend on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1261W, the raids on the offices of the General Federation of Iraqi Workers were carried out by Iraqi security forces with the backing of multi-national forces as part of ongoing security operations. In response to my hon. Friend's question, officials have raised the issue with the multi-national forces asking for further information about the raids.

We regard the right to form free and fair trades unions as fundamental. We remain deeply concerned about constraints on forming and financing of trades unions implied by Decree 8750 and Law 150 and will continue to lobby the Government of Iraq on this.

Iraq-Kuwait Conflict: Compensation

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her estimate is of the outstanding amount of interest accrued by delays in the payment by the UN Compensation Commission of compensation relating to the detention of UK nationals in Iraq during the first Gulf war. [137444]

Dr. Howells: A decision was taken at the 55th session of the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) Governing Council in March 2005 that interest would not be paid by the UNCC to claimants on top of their principal awards. This decision was made for a variety of reasons, including the fact that assumptions made about the capacity of the Compensation Fund (its revenue generated from Iraqi petroleum export earnings) did not materialise which resulted in inadequate funds being available, and the estimated projection that payment of all principal awards would not be completed until 2045.

The decision was taken against the background of the need for Iraqi oil proceeds to be used towards reconstruction of Iraq. Payment of interest would place an additional and unacceptable financial burden on the Iraqi people.

No outstanding interest therefore accrued in the period between determination and payment of awards.

A letter was sent by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to all UK claimants in March 2005 explaining the decision taken on the question of interest by the Governing Council.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will raise the issue of interest accrued during delays in the payment by the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) of compensation relating to detention of UK nationals in Iraq during the first Gulf war at the next meeting of the UNCC's Governing Council. [137445]

Dr. Howells: A decision has already been taken by the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) Governing Council at its 55th session in March 2005 that interest will not be paid by the UNCC to claimants on top of their principal awards. This decision was made for a variety of reasons, including the fact that

assumptions made about the capacity of the Compensation Fund (its revenue generated from Iraqi petroleum exports earnings) did not materialise, which resulted in inadequate funds being available, and the estimated projection that payment of all principal awards would not be completed until 2045.

The decision was taken against the background of the need for Iraqi oil proceeds to be used towards reconstruction of Iraq. Payment of interest would place an additional and unacceptable financial burden on the Iraqi people.

A letter was sent by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to all UK claimants in March 2005 explaining the decision taken on the question of interest by the Governing Council.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many payments to UK nationals from the UN Compensation Commission relating to detention in Iraq during the first Gulf war have been subject to delay; and what the average length of this delay was. [137446]

Dr. Howells: Individuals claims had to be filed with the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) by 1 January 1995; corporate and government claims by 1 January 1996. 5,000 UK claimants duly received awards from the UNCC totalling US$ 428 million.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office was initially unable to locate 47 of the successful UK claimants on the basis of information provided by the UNCC. However, following renewed efforts in 2006, we subsequently located 26 of the 47 and are currently in the process of finalising the payment of their outstanding awards.

To calculate the average time between the lodging of the 5,000 UK claims and the payments (made in instalments) could not be done without incurring disproportionate cost.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has held with the UN on *(a)* payments to UK nationals relating to their detention in Iraq during the first Gulf war from the UN Compensation Commission which were delayed and *(b)* the interest accrued during these delays. [137447]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with the UN about delayed payments to UK nationals from the UN Compensation Commission relating to their detention in Iraq, and the interest accrued.

We are aware, however, that in some cases claimants may face difficulties in making such repayments, and we will handle these with due concern for their welfare.

Krishna Maharaj

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Florida state hearings on Krishna Maharaj that he be granted a clemency hearing or a new trial. [139180]

Mr. McCartney: Mr. Maharaj has a part-hearing scheduled today before the aides to the Florida Clemency Board. A second part of the hearing will be heard in August when Mr. Maharaj's lawyer will put forward his case. An official from our consulate in Orlando will be attending that later hearing. Consular officials only attend court hearings in exceptional circumstances such as these. I have written to the Governor of Florida in support of Mr. Maharaj's clemency plea.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many times officials from her Department have *(a)* met and *(b)* made representations on behalf of Krishna Maharaj. [139181]

Mr. McCartney: Officials from our consulate in Orlando have met with Mr. Maharaj on several occasions since 2002 when he was re-sentenced to life imprisonment. The most recent of these visits was made by our consul on 19 January. Mr. Maharaj and his wife are in frequent contact with our consular officials in Orlando both by letter and telephone.

Since 2002, we have submitted three *amicus curiae* briefs to the US courts on a point of international law in Mr. Maharaj's case. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office both here and overseas are following this case very closely, and representations at official level are made at every appropriate opportunity. We continue to monitor the case in consultation with Mr. Maharaj's legal representatives in the US and UK.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information she has on the date of the next hearing on the application for clemency on behalf of Krishna Maharaj; and if she will arrange for a representative of her Department to be present at the hearing. [139182]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today (UIN 139180).

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a Minister from her Department last spoke with Paul Lomas of Freshfields and the hon. Member for Worthing, West concerning the applications for a clemency hearing or a new trial of Krishna Maharaj [139183]

Mr. McCartney: I met the hon. Member and members of the law firm, Freshfields, on 2 October 2006 to discuss supporting Mr Maharaj's plea for clemency.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if during his forthcoming visit to Sri Lanka the Minister of State (Middle East) will meet the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam; and if she will make a statement. [138612]

Dr. Howells: I have no plans at present to meet representatives of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1551-57 in which I set out the UK's approach to the peace process in Sri Lanka.

Migrant Workers: Foreign Students

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many foreign students received visas to enter the United Kingdom to work as seasonal workers in agriculture in each of the last 10 years, broken down by nation and region of origin; and if she will make a statement. [132079]

Dr. Howells: The following table displays the number of visas issued to non-EU students who applied to enter the United Kingdom to work as seasonal agricultural workers, from 2002 to 2006. The results are broken down according to the location of our missions overseas (country and region). There are no available reliable UK Visas statistics for applications made prior to 2002.

Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Australia and South Pacific	0	0	0	0	0
Central Europe and former Soviet Union	416	914	2,162	10307	14,248
Albania	0	0	110	106	46
Armenia	0	0	7	31	73
Bulgaria	1	0	0	2,301	3,362
Belarus	0	0	0	2	0
Croatia	0	0	1	0	0
Czech Republic	10	19	8	5	1
Estonia	0	0	0	0	2
Georgia	0	0	67	110	85
Hungary	0	0	5	0	2
Kazakhstan	19	0	3	1	0
Latvia	16	3	1	0	1
Lithuania	0	3	0	2	0
Macedonia	97	56	55	54	125
Moldova	0	0	40	911	857
Romania	243	0	0	317	1,940
Russia	30	753	1,838	2,347	2,548
Serbia	0	0	21	44	88
Slovakia	0	0	0	2	0
Turkmenistan	0	0	6	14	6
Ukraine	0	80	0	4,060	5,112
Equatorial Africa	1	0	0	8	19
Ghana	1	0	0	7	19
Nigeria	0	0	0	1	0
Far East	41	86	5	1	0
China	41	41	0	0	0
Mongolia	0	45	5	1	0
Latin America	0	0	0	0	0
Middle East	0	0	0	0	0
North America	0	0	0	0	0
North and North East Africa	2	0	0	2	2
Egypt	0	0	0	0	2
Tunisia	2	0	0	2	0
South Asia	4	46	30	0	0
India	4	46	30	0	0
South East Asia	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Africa	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Europe	52	120	19	68	24
Cyprus	1	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	1	0	0
Turkey	51	120	18	68	24
West Indies and Atlantic	0	0	0	0	0
Western Europe	0	0	1	3	1
Austria	0	0	1	2	0
Germany	0	0	0	1	1
Total	516	1,166	2,217	10,389	14,294

Note:
UK Visas makes every effort to ensure that statistics produced from our 'Central Reference System' are accurate. However, the complexity of our global business, including technical failures or occasional inconsistencies in data entry across any of over 150 offices, means we cannot guarantee 100 per cent. accuracy.
Source: CRS
2002-03 data sourced on: 17 May 2007
2004-06 data sourced on: 16 May 2007

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she received from other states party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at the preparatory committee meeting for the next review conference of the Treaty on the UK's compliance with Article VI of the Treaty. [138049]

Dr. Howells: No formal representations were made to the UK by other states party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the NPT preparatory committee on compliance by the UK with Article VI of the Treaty. Of the many national and group statements made to the plenary session of the PrepCom, only Iran's directly questioned the UK's compliance with Article VI.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which officials and ministers comprise the United Kingdom delegation to the prepatory committee to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference 2010; if she will publish on her Departmental web site all speeches made by the United Kingdom to the Committee in Vienna and list their URLs; and what support was provided by her Department to non-governmental organisations to attend the committee between 30 April and 11 May. [138182]

Dr. Howells: The UK delegation was led by John Duncan, the United Kingdom Ambassador for multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament in Geneva. He was accompanied by officials and experts from our mission in Geneva, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Trade and Industry and Southampton University. The statements made by the United Kingdom at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom will soon be published on the website of the UK Disarmament Mission in Geneva at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1061396426063.

They are also available on the UN website at:

http://www.un.org/NPT2010/statements/UK_30_04_pm.pdf.

The UK delegation met with UK non-governmental organisations (NGOs) at the FCO on 3 April and had further formal and informal discussions throughout the course of the PrepCom. No NGOs sought or received financial support from the FCO to attend this meeting.

Pakistan

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on recent disturbances in Karachi; and if she will make a statement. [138109]

Dr. Howells: Our high commission in Islamabad has reported that two large rallies took place in Karachi on 12 May. There were violent clashes between protestors resulting in an estimated 41 fatalities. There were renewed clashes in Karachi on 13 May. This led to further casualties, although numbers are unconfirmed. We condemn this violence and urge restraint on all parties. We will continue to watch the situation closely.

Russia: Estonia

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of Russia's action in relation to Estonia since the relocation of the Russian war memorial statue; and what representation she has made to the Russian authorities on this subject. [138701]

Mr. Hoon: The Government recognise the right of the Estonian Government to relocate war memorials and war graves and see this as an internal matter for Estonia. My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary was briefed on Estonian-Russian relations by Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 14 May. Russian-Estonian relations were discussed at the EU-Russia Summit on 18 May.

The Government support the remarks made by the president of the EU Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, at the EU-Russia summit that the EU is based on principles of solidarity and difficulties for one member state constitute a difficulty for the entire EU. We are fully supportive of both the EU presidency statement of 2 May and the NATO statement of 3 May, which both expressed grave concern over the safety of the Estonian Embassy and its staff in Russia and urged Russia to address the dispute through dialogue.

Spain: HMS Sussex

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the location of the wreck thought to be HMS Sussex was discussed with the Spanish Government at talks in Gibraltar on 26 March 2007; and if she will make a statement. [138720]

Mr. Hoon: The issue was touched on at the end of the meeting of the trilateral forum in Gibraltar on 26 March. As regards the Sussex's location, I refer the hon. Member to the answer he was given by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe, Douglas Alexander, on 14 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1902W.

Sri Lanka: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make it her policy to seek United Nations backing for any agreement between the Tamil Tiger Peace Co-ordinating body and the Sri Lankan Government; and if she will make a statement. [138611]

Dr. Howells: We support the need for a negotiated settlement of the conflict and the Norwegian Government's position as facilitator of the peace process. We believe that strong international support, possibly including that of the UN, for a peace settlement in Sri Lanka would be essential. This would need to be considered carefully by UN member states should these circumstances occur.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the recent treatment of students and staff at Jaffria university, Sri Lanka, by the Sri Lankan army; and what discussions she has had *(a)* with the Sri Lankan Government and *(b)* at a European level on the behaviour of the Sri Lankan army towards civilians. [138831]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of the reports of harassment on the campus of Jaffria university and of allegations of the involvement of paramilitaries and members of the Sri Lankan armed forces in these incidents. Continuing reports of abductions, disappearances and extra-judicial killings in Sri Lanka are a matter of serious concern.

As I told the House on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1551-1557 during the debate on Sri Lanka, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have made the UK position clear to the Government of Sri Lanka. There has to be an end to the culture of impunity. Those responsible for human rights violations should be brought to justice. We have welcomed the establishment of a President's Commission and of an Eminent Persons' Group to observe the work of the Commission. We shall continue to raise our concerns with the Sri Lankan Government. At the same time, we shall continue to highlight the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's shameful human rights record.

We play an active role in helping to shape EU policy on Sri Lanka. Concerns over human rights figure prominently in EU policy discussions on Sri Lanka.

Switzerland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to improve British-Swiss relations. [139057]

Mr. Hoon: The UK and Switzerland enjoy an excellent bilateral relationship with regular dialogue involving British and Swiss Ministers, ambassadors, parliamentarians and officials. High-level British visits to Switzerland are frequent, an example being the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos in January, which was attended by my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and several other Government Ministers. We also share many strategic priorities with the Swiss, such as action on climate change, and foreign policy concerns, such as a successful settlement for Kosovo. We enjoy excellent trade relations with Switzerland. In 2006, Switzerland was the UK's second largest non-EU market after the US, with goods exports totalling almost £4 billion. Switzerland is the sixth largest investor in the UK, with Swiss companies estimated to provide over 100,000 UK jobs.

Tamils

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will hold discussions with her Sri Lanka counterpart on *(a)* securing legal protection for the Tamil language and Tamil Eelam region in the North East of Sri Lanka and *(b)* the representation of the Tamil people in the Sri Lankan Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [138628]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* In our regular discussions with the Sri Lankan Government, we make clear our strong belief that peace must be pursued through political means. We emphasise the need for them to set out a credible framework for a negotiated settlement, which could satisfy the legitimate demands of all communities and promote the full observance of human rights in Sri Lanka.

United Nations Compensation Commission

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354, on the United Nations Compensation Commission, what criteria were taken into account in making the compensation awards of $52 billion; and what proportion of claimants were *(a)* individuals and *(b)* companies. [138320]

Dr. Howells: The UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) established six categories of compensation claims. Priority was given to claims from individuals forced to leave Iraq or Kuwait (Category A); to claims from individuals who suffered loss or personal injury or who lost a spouse, child or parent (Category B) and to claims from individuals who suffered personal losses of up to US$100,000 (Category C).

Category D covered claims from individuals suffering losses over US$100,000; Category E covered claims from corporations; and Category F covered claims from Governments and International Organisations.

Claims in all these categories were assessed and resolved by panels of Commissioners who were independent experts. The UNCC's claims processing procedures were prescribed by the Security Council.

1,539,265 eligible claims from individuals and 4,390 eligible claims from corporations, international organisations, and Governments have been paid according to the latest information available on the UNCC website:

www.unog.ch/uncc/.

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Screening

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department gives on the length of appointment that should be given to women at breast cancer screening clinics. [138577]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* The national health service breast screening programme National Quality Assurance Co-ordinating Group for Radiography has produced guidelines for the NHS breast screening programme, entitled "Quality Assurance Guidelines For Mammography Including Radiographic Quality Control".

These guidelines deal with mammographic aspects of breast screening quality assurance and the quality control of radiographic procedures and state that the minimum screening examination for women attending the NHS breast screening programme is two views at all screens and experience shows that six minute appointments are acceptable for most routine screening of women for up to age 70 years.

Some women do require longer appointment times, such as those with mobility problems or breast implants. The local screening units arrange longer appointments for these women.

Cancer: Drugs

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will initiate hospital trials on the use of dichloroacetate to destroy onc cells in cancer patients. [137453]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No. The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The institute's research programmes support high quality research of relevance and in areas of high priority to patients and the NHS. Details, including the scope of the programmes and the arrangements for making applications for support from them, are available on the NIHR website at www.nihr.ac.uk. Funding awards are in all cases made after open, competitive, peer review.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the efficacy of dichloroacetate in destroying cancer cells; and if she will make a statement. [137454]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Cannock Chase (Dr. Wright) on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 324W.

Care Homes: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1363W, on care homes: finance, how many residential places there are in each region as a proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* pensioners; what assessment she has made of the reasons for the variations in provision of care home places in different regions; and if she will make a statement. [134099]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Neither the Department nor the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) collects data on population numbers. The Office for National Statistics has supplied data on numbers of adults (aged 18-64) and older people (aged 65 and over) in the nine CSCI regions.

This information, together with data on numbers of residential care places supplied by CSCI, is shown in the table.

The Department has not made any formal assessment of the reason for regional variations in the number of residential care places. This will be influenced by a number of factors, such as variations in demographics, local need and demand, the commissioning strategies employed by councils and levels of deprivation and health in different populations within each area.

CSCI region	*Places*[1]	*Number of adults (18-64)*[2]	*Number of places as a percentage of adults*[3]	*Number of older people (65 and over)*[2]	*Number of places as a percentage of older people*[3]
East Midlands	40,809	2,666,500	1.53	702,900	5.80
Eastern	45,933	3,389,300	1.35	931,400	4.93
London	40,314	5,000,300	0.81	886,800	4.55
North East	25,723	1,584,800	1.62	430,500	5.98
North West	61,631	4,214,300	1.46	1,105,300	5.58
South East	79,418	5,015,700	1.58	1,353,200	5.87
South West	56,479	3,559,800	1.59	1,049,300	5.38
West Midlands	44,446	3,279,600	1.35	871,700	5.10
Yorkshire and Humberside	47,967	3,120,200	1.54	821,700	5.84

[1] Numbers include residential homes for older people and for younger adults (aged 18-64).
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 100. These data are Crown copyright.
[3] Percentages rounded to two decimal places.
Sources:
1. CSCI registration and inspection database—snapshot on 13 March 2007.
2. Office for National Statistics mid-2005 population estimates.

Care Homes: Northamptonshire

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1348W, on care homes: Northamptonshire, if she will publish the dignity in care grant allocations for each care home in Northamptonshire for 2007-08 once determined. [138857]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* We have no plans to publish this information centrally. This is a matter for local authorities, who are responsible for publicising and managing the grants locally.

We have published the amount of the allocations to each local authority, which are shown in the following table.

Authority	*Total grant allocation 2007-08 (£)*
Barking and Dagenham	205,000
Barnet	365,000
Barnsley	365,000
Bath and North East Somerset	220,000
Bedfordshire	410,000
Bexley	250,000
Birmingham	1,260,000
Blackburn	245,000
Blackpool	315,000
Bolton	385,000
Bournemouth	280,000
Bracknell Forest	190,000
Bradford	745,000
Brent	195,000
Brighton and Hove	380,000
Bristol	570,000
Bromley	290,000
Buckinghamshire	370,000
Bury	275,000
Calderdale	300,000
Cambridgeshire	605,000
Camden	250,000
Cheshire	1,030,000
City of London	20,000
Cornwall	740,000
Coventry	355,000
Croydon	285,000
Cumbria	770,000
Darlington	210,000
Derby	390,000
Derbyshire	1,085,000
Devon	1,320,000

Authority	Total grant allocation 2007-08 (£)
Doncaster	385,000
Dorset	510,000
Dudley	380,000
Durham	935,000
Ealing	280,000
East Riding	610,000
East Sussex	855,000
Enfield	235,000
Essex	1,365,000
Gateshead	380,000
Gloucestershire	705,000
Greenwich	225,000
Hackney	175,000
Halton	150,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	150,000
Hampshire	1,370,000
Haringey	200,000
Harrow	165,000
Hartlepool	165,000
Havering	255,000
Herefordshire	220,000
Hertfordshire	1,180,000
Hillingdon	215,000
Hounslow	175,000
Isle of Wight	310,000
Isles of Scilly	20,000
Islington	215,000
Kensington and Chelsea	110,000
Kent	1,895,000
Kingston-upon-Hull	580,000
Kingston-upon-Thames	140,000
Kirklees	575,000
Knowsley	240,000
Lambeth	265,000
Lancashire	1,800,000
Leeds	1,040,000
Leicester	405,000
Leicestershire	650,000
Lewisham	305,000
Lincolnshire	1,290,000
Liverpool	895,000
Luton	165,000
Manchester	665,000
Medway Towns	240,000
Merton	140,000
Middlesbrough	215,000
Milton Keynes	190,000
North East Lincolnshire	270,000
North Lincolnshire	275,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	480,000
Newham	225,000
Norfolk	1,260,000
North Somerset	340,000
North Tyneside	505,000
North Yorkshire	835,000
Northamptonshire	805,000
Northumberland	565,000
Nottingham	425,000
Nottinghamshire	1,120,000
Oldham	440,000
Oxfordshire	525,000
Peterborough	180,000
Plymouth	450,000
Poole	135,000
Portsmouth	245,000
Reading	110,000
Redbridge	250,000
Redcar and Cleveland	225,000
Richmond-upon-Thames	155,000
Rochdale	325,000
Rotherham	420,000
Rutland	50,000
Salford	400,000
Sandwell	455,000
Sefton	550,000
Sheffield	980,000
Shropshire	470,000
Slough	100,000
Solihull	205,000
Somerset	780,000
South Gloucestershire	300,000
South Tyneside	295,000
Southampton	280,000
Southend	245,000
Southwark	280,000
St. Helens	225,000
Staffordshire	1,075,000
Stockport	370,000
Stockton-on-Tees	350,000
Stoke-on-Trent	445,000
Suffolk	900,000
Sunderland	525,000
Surrey	1,095,000
Sutton	170,000
Swindon	175,000
Tameside	435,000
Telford and Wrekin	180,000
Thurrock	135,000
Torbay	270,000
Tower Hamlets	200,000
Trafford	280,000
Wakefield	495,000
Walsall	380,000
Waltham Forest	200,000
Wandsworth	265,000
Warrington	315,000
Warwickshire	490,000
West Berkshire	110,000
West Sussex	1,010,000
Westminster	220,000
Wigan	425,000
Wiltshire	460,000
Windsor and Maidenhead	105,000
Wirral	890,000
Wokingham	90,000
Wolverhampton	350,000
Worcestershire	705,000
York	220,000
Total	67,725,000

Cataracts: Surgery

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cataract operations have been performed by the NHS in each of the past five years, broken down by strategic health authority; and if she will make a statement. [138532]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* The following table shows the numbers of admissions to hospital for a cataract operation in the last five years. The table does not include cataract operations carried out on an out-patient basis.

Strategic health authority	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	16,677	16,938	16,310	14,868	12,778
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	8,334	9,594	8,796	7,347	6,438
Essex	10,301	10,583	11,785	9,126	8,882
North West London	9,816	9,901	9,454	8,570	7,586
North Central London	5,981	6,695	6,105	5,413	4,913
North East London	7,985	8,478	9,146	7,344	5,687
South East London	6,596	6,800	7,882	7,131	5,580
South West London	6,688	6,146	7,660	6,597	5,878
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	10,675	10,769	10,506	9,852	9,045
County Durham and Tees Valley	7,701	8,346	7,206	6,729	5,790
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	9,617	10,477	10,168	9,569	7,417
West Yorkshire	10,291	12,074	10,992	10,852	10,889
Cumbria and Lancashire	11,967	12,679	13,330	12,216	10,318
Greater Manchester	13,147	14,087	13,403	13,338	13,046
Cheshire and Merseyside	12,545	12,516	14,356	11,849	11,773
Thames Valley	10,733	11,026	11,730	9,378	9,993
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	11,837	13,468	11,695	9,692	8,430
Kent and Medway	10,101	9,079	9,540	8,846	7,383
Surrey and Sussex	16,170	14,844	15,515	13,063	12,098
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	12,508	14,455	12,282	12,279	11,132
South West Peninsula	11,252	12,866	12,101	10,301	10,022
Dorset and Somerset	8,185	8,064	8,748	8,116	7,225
South Yorkshire	8,546	8,967	8,469	9,024	7,311
Trent	17,693	17,458	16,251	14,794	13,751
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	7,417	7,285	6,995	6,388	6,364
Shropshire and Staffordshire	7,172	8,090	8,654	7,248	7,412
Birmingham and the Black Country	12,153	12,089	12,505	12,116	12,053
West Midlands South	6,508	7,170	7,721	7,804	7,836
	288,596	300,944	299,305	269,850	247,030

Note:
The figures given do not represent the number of patients, as a patient may have more than one episode of care within the year.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Childbirth

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most common age for women to give birth for the first time was in each year since 1987. [134458]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 May 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about the most common age for women to give birth for the first time in each year since 1987. (134458)

The most recent year for which data are available is 2005. For each year between 1987 and 2005, the table below shows the most common age at which women had their first live birth in England and Wales. Figures are given for both the age at which the largest number of women had their first birth and the age at which the birth rate for childless women was highest.

	Most common age of first birth, based on:	
	Largest numbers of first births	*Highest birth rates for childless women*
1987	24	28
1988	25	29
1989	25	30
1990	25	28
1991	26	28
1992	26	29
1993	27	29
1994	27	29
1995	27	30
1996	28	30
1997	28	29
1998	27	30
1999	28	31
2000	29	31
2001	30	31

	Most common age of first birth, based on:	
	Largest numbers of first births	Highest birth rates for childless women
2002	31	31
2003	31	31
2004	31	31
2005	31	31

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assumptions were made about the number of live births in each year until 2009 in order to inform her Department's document "Maternity Matters", gateway reference 7586 of 3 April 2007. [137394]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Population predictions, including predictions of birth rates and trends, are developed by the Government Actuarial Department. We have used these forecasts as the basis for future trends in live births.

"Maternity Matters" is a comprehensive programme for improving choice, access and continuity of care in maternity services. It sets out a strategy that will put women and their partners at the centre of their local maternity service provision. It highlights how commissioners, providers, maternity professionals and user representatives will be able to use the health reform agenda to shape provision to meet the needs of women and their families.

In implementing the recommendations of "Maternity Matters" local managers will need to take into account a range of issues. These include how their services are organised within a maternity network, the provision of safe, responsive care for women with complex and straightforward pregnancies at all times, and arrangements for transfers across the network that take into account emergencies and geographical factors.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births there were in each hospital consultant-led maternity unit in *(a)* 2005 and in *(b)* 2006. [138708]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* Information is not collected centrally in the form requested. "NHS Maternity Statistics, England: 2004-5", the last year for which we have figures, shows there were 584,100 hospital births and 13,700 home births. This equates to 97.7 per cent. hospital and 2.3 per cent. home births. Of the hospital births, 54 per cent. were in consultant wards, 40 per cent. were in joint consultant/midwife/general practitioner (GP) wards, 4 per cent. in midwife-led wards and 1 per cent. in GP wards. We are not able to break down these figures by national health service trust.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of Health, (1) what action her Department is taking to reduce the length of time taken to diagnose chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis; [138399]

(2) what her strategy is to ensure that local service providers meet local need for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome services. [138400]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2004 the Department formally requested the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce clinical guidelines on the diagnosis and management of chronic fatigue/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME). NICE expects to publish this guidance in August 2007.

Local national health service organisations have the responsibility to demonstrate that they are making progress towards achieving the level of service quality described in the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions (the NSF). Since publication of the NSF, the Department has co-ordinated a range of activity to help local health and social care organisations take forward implementation of the NSF. This includes:

working with key NHS, social care, voluntary and independent sector stakeholders, as well as service users and carers, to identify and address key issues in neurological services and the stakeholders' role in implementation;

ensuring that other key delivery programmes, most especially the White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' and the long-term conditions strategy help deliver key NSF objectives; and

work with the Care Services Improvement Partnership to promote implementation of the NSF through a co-ordinated work programme, including regional workshops, a web-based getting started pack and self-assessment tool for services.

Cochlear Implants: Waiting Lists

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults have been waiting more than (i) three months, (ii) six months and (iii) one year for a cochlear implant operation; [138259]

(2) how many cochlear implant operations have been performed on *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in each NHS trust since 2002-03. [138260]

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cochlear implants were carried out in each year between 2000 and 2006 in each health trust. [138254]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of children and adults waiting for a cochlear implant operation is not held centrally.

Information on how many cochlear implant operations have been performed on children and adults in each national health service trust since 2002-06 has been placed in the Library.

Colorectal Cancer: Bevacizumab

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects Bevacizumab to become routinely available on the NHS for the treatment of bowel cancer. [138598]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* On 24 January 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued guidance to the national health service on the use of Bevacizumab for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer.

NICE's guidance did not recommend Bevacizumab as a treatment option for metastatic colorectal (bowel) cancer. However, the guidance states that patients who were receiving Bevacizumab should have the option to

continue to do so until they and their consultants decide that it is the right time to stop treatment.

It will be for individual primary care trusts to decide whether to fund Bevacizumab for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer in the light of NICE's recommendations. It would be inappropriate for Ministers to intervene.

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists operating under *(a)* general dental services contracts and *(b)* personal dental services agreements left the NHS in each year since 1997-98; and what percentage these figures represent of the number of dentists in the NHS (i) in total and (ii) in each strategic health authority area. [137275]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest information available is set out in the following tables. Information is not available broken down by general dental services and personal dental services and could be provided in that format only at disproportionate cost.

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Number of complete leavers, and as a percentage of total dentists, in England by strategic health authority (SHA) area as at 31 March each year

	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists
England	915	5	956	5	1,033	6	1,208	7	1,191	6
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	50	6	40	5	56	6	58	6	69	7
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	39	6	34	5	39	5	34	5	39	5
Birmingham and the Black Country	25	4	38	5	33	5	48	6	33	4
Cheshire and Merseyside	38	4	48	5	45	5	44	5	57	6
County Durham and Tees Valley	16	4	20	5	19	5	20	5	19	5
Cumbria and Lancashire	31	5	28	4	33	5	49	7	25	4
Dorset and Somerset	20	5	17	4	30	7	23	5	33	7
Essex	27	5	32	6	31	5	52	9	50	9
Greater Manchester	51	6	39	4	52	6	45	5	43	5
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	26	4	31	5	33	5	50	7	43	6
Kent and Medway	51	9	54	9	50	8	51	8	45	7
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	20	5	22	5	17	4	41	9	28	6
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	43	6	38	5	49	6	50	6	37	5
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	26	5	24	5	28	5	26	5	23	4
North Central London	44	7	59	9	43	6	56	8	70	10
North East London	30	5	41	7	31	5	38	6	43	7
North West London	38	4	60	6	72	6	86	8	77	7
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	24	5	30	6	34	7	30	6	29	6
Shropshire and Staffordshire	22	5	17	4	13	3	18	4	25	5
South East London	41	7	47	7	40	6	53	8	60	9
South West London	39	6	44	7	45	7	63	9	46	7
South West Peninsula	33	6	37	6	42	7	40	6	56	8
South Yorkshire	12	3	15	3	11	2	25	5	25	5
Surrey and Sussex	63	6	58	5	63	5	78	6	74	6
Thames Valley	48	6	36	4	46	5	48	5	53	6
Trent	39	5	40	5	54	6	51	6	53	6

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Number of complete leavers, and as a percentage of total dentists, in England by strategic health authority (SHA) area as at 31 March each year

	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists
West Midlands South	17	3	25	5	23	4	35	6	35	6
West Yorkshire	24	3	31	4	34	5	31	4	38	5

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists	Complete leavers	% of total dentists
England	1,233	7	1,270	7	1,163	6	1,088	5
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	81	9	54	6	55	6	58	6
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	57	8	52	7	33	4	32	4
Birmingham and the Black Country	28	3	28	3	36	4	38	4
Cheshire and Merseyside	50	5	45	5	55	6	50	5
County Durham and Tees Valley	17	4	12	3	25	6	17	4
Cumbria and Lancashire	41	6	38	6	26	4	23	3
Dorset and Somerset	33	7	42	8	41	8	35	6
Essex	35	6	43	7	35	6	36	5
Greater Manchester	47	5	46	5	48	5	34	3
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	46	7	62	9	43	6	48	6
Kent and Medway	51	8	49	8	62	10	45	7
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	18	4	20	4	23	4	27	5
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	62	8	51	6	62	7	62	7
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	19	3	39	7	31	5	35	5
North Central London	58	8	52	7	39	5	31	4
North East London	34	6	36	6	38	6	27	4
North West London	91	9	67	6	55	5	69	6
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	33	6	37	7	34	6	35	6
Shropshire and Staffordshire	19	4	36	7	22	4	16	3
South East London	37	6	51	8	50	7	30	4
South West London	62	9	68	10	43	6	34	5
South West Peninsula	59	9	61	9	53	7	47	6
South Yorkshire	24	5	29	6	23	5	29	6
Surrey and Sussex	91	7	95	7	102	7	82	6
Thames Valley	52	5	62	6	50	5	53	5
Trent	54	6	54	6	50	5	41	4
West Midlands South	29	5	26	4	30	4	28	4
West Yorkshire	42	5	49	6	32	4	42	5

Notes:
1. Complete leaver means the dentist had an open GDS or PDS contract in March of the previous year but no GDS or PDS contract in March of the specified year.
2. Percentages are calculated on the number of dentists with an open GDS or PDS contract as at 31 March in the specified year.
3. The dentist numbers include principals, assistants and trainees. Prison contracts are excluded.
4. A dentist may have a contract in more than one SHA area. Therefore, data at SHA area may include duplications of dentists leaving. England data exclude duplication.
5. The postcode of the dental practice was used to allocate dentists to specific geographic areas. SHA areas have been defined using the Office for National Statistics all fields postcode directory.
6. The numbers of leavers include all notifications, received by the dental practice board, up to 11 May 2006.
7. SHA boundaries as at 31 March 2006.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care.
NHS BSA.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which strategic health authorities distance targets for access to NHS dentistry have been implemented by primary care trusts for *(a)* routine and *(b)* emergency treatment; and what distance target has been set by each. [138261]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available centrally. Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning services to reflect local needs and for deciding what indicators or standards to use to monitor access to services.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts are operating waiting lists for patients seeking to access primary dental care. [138263]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts to make local arrangements to support patients in accessing national health service dental services.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment her Department has made of levels of demand for NHS primary dental care. [138264]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for primary care trusts to assess locally the level of need and demand for national health services primary dental care. The most recent estimate undertaken by the Department suggested that, in any given two-year period, it is likely that some 60 per cent. or so of the population will seek to access NHS dental services. This estimate took into account levels of patient registrations in the early 1990s, when adult registrations lasted for two years and when there were no significant reported difficulties of access to services. The most recent data show that around 56 per cent. of the population accessed NHS dental services in the two-year period ending December 2006, the same proportion as in the two-year period ending March 2006.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the new General Dental Services contract on *(a)* access to services, *(b)* quality of care, *(c)* oral health and *(d)* the patient experience. [138265]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department will be publishing a report later in the summer, assessing the first 12 months of the new arrangements for local commissioning of dental services and the new contractual arrangements. The most recent data show that the proportion of the population accessing national health service dental services in the two-year period ending December 2006 is the same as in the two-year period immediately preceding the reforms. This suggests that access has remained broadly stable during the transition to the new arrangements. The evidence also so far indicates that the NHS is commissioning a steadily increasing volume of NHS dental services.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology her Department uses for assessing levels of patient access to primary care dental services. [138273]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department monitors the numbers of patients who receive national health service care or treatment from a dentist one or more times during a 24 month period. The latest data are contained in 'NHS Dental Statistics for England Quarter 3: 31 December 2006' which is available in the Library. It is for primary care trusts to decide locally what other indicators or standards they wish to use to monitor access to services.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many units of dental activity have been allocated to *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust in financial year (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; [138921]

(2) how many units of dental activity are available to dentists in each primary care trust in England; [138924]

(3) what the average number of units of dental activity available per head of population is in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes. [138925]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answers 23 May 2007]:* Information is not available in the form requested. Information is available on the level of service commissioned.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) commission dental services from local dental providers. Information is collected centrally on the number of contracts each PCT holds and the units of dental activity (UDAs) these represent. UDAs are a way of measuring and giving relative weight to the course of treatments given to patients. The latest information showing the total number of UDAs commissioned as at 31 March 2007 by PCT is provided in a table which has been placed in the Library. Information is available for England only, and is available at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/dental_contracts/index.htm

The annualised number of UDAs commissioned expressed per head of population is 1.55 at England level and 1.36 for Milton Keynes PCT. The latest available population data are as at 2005.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average value of a unit of dental activity is in England; [138922]

(2) what the value of a unit of dental activity is in each dental practice in Milton Keynes. [138923]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answers 23 May 2007]:* Data collected by the Department centrally do not identify the value of units of dental activity (UDAs) or provide a basis for comparisons of UDA values between primary care trusts (PCTs) or dental practices. PCTs set contract values and service level requirements locally. UDA values will vary because of a number of factors, including differences in treatment patterns and treatment needs in different areas, the contract values negotiated locally by PCTs and dental practices, and the degree to which PCTs and practices may have agreed service outputs that cannot be measured through patient courses of treatment.

Dental Services: Cornwall

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the likely effect on dental services of the decision by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust not to comply with the decision of the NHS Litigation Authority for the determination of contract activity for dental practices in Cornwall. [137970]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's understanding is that the primary care trust in question is still in the

process of working through the implications of the NHS Litigation Authority decision with its local dental providers.

Dental Services: Funding

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1596W, on dental services: funding, how much Dental Service Increment for Teaching funding was made available to each strategic health authority (SHA) for 2007-08; whether SHAs' expenditure of their Dental Service Increment for Teaching funding in 2007-08 is ring-fenced for the stated purposes of the funding; what steps she is taking to ensure that in 2007-08 the Dental Service Increment for Teaching budget is used by SHAs for its planned purpose; and if she will make a statement. [138772]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Dental Service Increment for Teaching (SIFT) funding for each strategic health authority in 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

SHA	*Dental SIFT allocation (£000)*
East Midlands SHA	0
East of England SHA	0
London SHA	28,940
North East SHA	8,103
North West SHA	13,491
South Central SHA	0
South East Coast SHA	0
South West SHA	8,156
West Midlands SHA	8,140
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	13,928
England total	80,757

The Service Increment for Teaching funding was issued as an element of the Multi Professional Education and Training budget, which was allocated to SHA as part of the bundle of central budgets.

The education and training budget was not ring-fenced in order to allow SHA freedom to spend resources according to their own priorities.

However, in 2007-08 a service level agreement and accountability framework has been issued to ensure that SHA are held to account for the training they support for undergraduate dental students. This agreement requires SHA to fund dental placements based on the nationally agreed placement rate, which should ensure that undergraduate dental students receive the necessary support in the future.

Dentures

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the adult population of *(a)* England and *(b)* Lancashire under the age of (i) 35, (ii) 45 and (iii) 55 years have false teeth; and what the respective figures were in 1997. [138381]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the requested format, but information is available on the percentage of the adult population of the United Kingdom who have no remaining natural teeth. It is not known what proportion of these have false teeth.

Percentage of all adults with no remaining natural teeth, United Kingdom, 1998

Age	*Adults with no remaining natural teeth (percentage)*
16 to 24	0
25 to 34	0
35 to 44	1
45 to 54	6
55 to 64	20
65 to 74	36
75 and over	58

Source:
Adult Dental Health Survey, 1998, table 2.3.1

Departments: Higher Civil Servants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the members of the Department Board on *(a)* 6 May 2005, *(b)* 5 May 2006 and *(c)* at present; and what the job title is of each. [135886]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Membership of the Department's Management Board as of the dates requested is set out in the following table.

	Membership of the Departmental Management Board
As of 6 May 2005	
Sir Nigel Crisp	Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive of the National Health Service
Sir Liam Donaldson	Chief Medical Officer and Director of Health and Social Care Standards and Quality
John Bacon	Director of Health and Social Care Services Delivery
Hugh Taylor	Director of Health and Social Care Strategy and Business Development
Christine Beasley	Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Public Involvement and Patient
Richard Douglas	Director of Finance and Investment
Stephen O'Brien	Director of Strategy
Sian Jarvis	Director of Communications
As of 5 May 2006	
Hugh Taylor	Acting Permanent Secretary
Sir Ian Carruthers	Acting Chief Executive of the NHS
Sir Liam Donaldson	Chief Medical Officer
Julie Baddeley	Non-Executive Director
Derek Myers	Non-Executive Director
Ken Anderson	Director General, Commercial
Christine Beasley	Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Patient and Public Involvement
Alan Doran	Acting Director General, Departmental Management
Richard Douglas	Director General, Finance and Investment
Margaret Edwards	Director General, Access
David Flory	Interim Director General, Financial Recovery
Richard Granger	Director General, NHS Connecting for Health
Nic Greenfield	Acting Director General, Workforce
Barbara Hakin	Acting Director General, Commissioning
Bill McCarthy	Acting Director General, Policy and Strategy

	Membership of the Departmental Management Board
Duncan Selbie	Director General, Performance
Matt Tee	Interim Director General, Communications
At present (8 May 2007)	
Hugh Taylor	Permanent Secretary
David Nicholson	Chief Executive of the NHS
Sir Liam Donaldson	Chief Medical Officer
Julie Baddeley	Non-Executive Director
Derek Myers	Non-Executive Director
Mike Wheeler	Non-Executive Director
Christine Beasley	Chief Nursing Officer and Director General, Experience, Involvement and Professional Leadership
David Behan	Director General, Social Care
Andrew Cash	Director General, Provider Development
Clare Chapman	Director General, Workforce
Alan Doran	Director General, Departmental Management
Richard Douglas	Director General, Finance and Investment
Ivan Ellul	Acting Director General, Commissioning
Richard Granger	Director General, NHS Connecting for Health
Una O'Brien	Acting Director General, Policy and Strategy
Michael Seitz	Acting Director General, Commercial
Matt Tee	Interim Director General, Communications

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by her Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [134999]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The amount of energy purchased by the Department from renewable sources in 2006 was 12,573,002 kWh.

Doctors: Training

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her estimate is of the number of junior doctors who will not secure jobs in the 2007 medical training application service selection process; and what assistance will be provided for these doctors. [136252]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As the process is ongoing, it is not possible to predict the outcomes as yet. The review group is exploring the possibilities for creating further training opportunities where these can support local work force requirements. The review group is also exploring ways to support any doctors who do not secure training and to maximize the employment opportunities.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Mersey Deanery is taking to provide information on changes to the medical training application service and modernising medical careers to medical trainees. [136253]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is a matter for the deaneries to make the appropriate information available to trainees. However, some updates and advice can also be found on the Modernising Medical Careers and Medical Training Application Service websites at www.mmc.nhs.uk and www.mtas.nhs.uk respectively.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions have been made for flexible training in the modernising medical careers programme. [136254]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A commitment to ensure opportunities for flexible training is a central plank of the Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) proposals. The MMC model supports doctors who wish to train flexibly—with progress based on the acquisition of competences, there is no time limit on the length of training. It is a matter for employers and deaneries to adapt programmes locally to ensure such trainees are accommodated.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision there will be to maintain standards of patient care during the period after 1 August when all junior doctors will change jobs. [136284]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Not all doctors in training will change jobs on the same date at the beginning of August. Arrangements for 2007 will reflect current practice as most doctors at the level equivalent to the senior house officer grade will start in the first week of August, while doctors at the equivalent of the specialist registrar grade will have staggered start dates.

To ensure service is maintained at the beginning of August and patient care is not compromised, NHS employers are working with trusts to plan now for managing the transition in the period after 1 August. These plans include advertising locum posts on NHS jobs to fill training posts and using extensions to contracts or service posts.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason junior doctors may not sample academic medicine unless they have completed a foundation academic programme. [136285]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Applicants can sample academic medicine by doing an academic foundation programme which provides a route to foundation 2 competencies. They can also enter through other routes. However, all applicants to the academic specialty training programmes must have achieved foundation 2 competencies as essential entry requirements.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to increase the number of training posts for medics. [138324]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* The review group is exploring the possibilities for creating further training opportunities where these can support local work force requirements. The review group is also looking at ways to support any doctors who do not secure training and to maximize the employment opportunities for them in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisation developed the Medical Training Application Service software used in support of Modernising Medical Careers; and at what overall cost to the public purse. [135887]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Methods Consulting have been contracted to develop and support the medical training application service. The total costs of this service including set-up costs were £1.9 million in 2006-07. The estimated costs of the service over five years are £6.3 million.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of running the Medical Training Application Service in 2006-07; and what funding has been allocated to the service in 2007-08. [135888]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total cost of the Medical Training Application Service, including set-up costs, was £1.9 million in 2006-07. The funding requirement that has been estimated for 2007-08 is £1.5 million.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many post graduate training posts there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* for GP positions for junior doctors in each years since 1997. [134105]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[pursuant to the reply, 15 May 2007, Official Report, c. 725W]:* The number of post graduate posts and junior doctors posts funded by the Department from the Medical and Dental Education and Training Levy (MADEL) from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are shown in the following table.

Number of MADEL funded posts, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Number of posts				
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total posts funded from MADEL	35,878	36,833	37,427	37,611	39,326
GP registrars and pre registration house officers funded from MADEL	2,402	2,726	2,911	2,902	2,902

Notes:
1. 2007-08 MADEL figures include 351 SHO posts and 527 SpR posts that are rebased from service.
2. Due to changes in methodology, MADEL figures are not available prior to 2003-04.

Source:
MADEL allocations data

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the *(a)* junior doctors and *(b)* junior doctors' representatives whom she met on each day since 1 February to discuss modernising medical careers. [138433]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met representatives from the British Medical Association (BMA) who represent junior doctors on 28 February and 14 March. She also met with the Royal College of Physicians on 16 May.

On 5 March my right hon. Friend met Paul Dmitri, chair of the Academy of the Medical Royal Colleges Trainees Group.

On 11 May she met a small group of junior doctors at Whiston hospital, St. Helens and Knowsley Trust.

In addition the Secretary of State had phone calls with the BMA on 8 March, 9 and 16 May.

My noble Friend Lord Hunt, the Minister of State, met James Johnson chairman of the BMA on 2 May.

There have also been a series of official level meetings with representatives from Remedy UK and the BMA on modernising medical careers since 1 February.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to guarantee care standards in the transitional period to modernising medical careers and the implementation of the working time directive. [138482]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* To ensure service is maintained at the beginning of August and patient care is not compromised, strategic health authorities are working with trusts and NHS employers and the Department to plan now for managing the transition in the period after 1 August. These plans include advertising locum posts on NHS jobs to fill training posts and using extensions to contracts or service posts.

Not all doctors in training will change jobs on the same date at the beginning of August. Arrangements for 2007 will reflect current practice as most doctors at the level equivalent to the senior house officer grade will start in the first week of August, while doctors at the equivalent of the specialist registrar grade will have staggered start dates. From August 2007, the European Working Time Directive requires doctors in training to be working a maximum 56 hour week (averaged over the six month reference period). Doctors in training typically work a 56 hour week already, consistent with their new deal contracts.

Eating Disorders: Young People

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10, (iii) 11, (iv) 12, (v) 13, (vi) 14, (vii) 15, (viii) 16, (ix) 17 and (x) 18 years were admitted to hospital for illnesses or conditions relating to eating disorders in each of the last 10 years. [139126]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected in the format requested. Information is available from 1996 -97 onwards about the number of finished consultant episodes following a primary diagnosis of an eating disorder.

We take the issue of eating disorders, especially among young people, very seriously. This is why the

Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce a clinical guideline on the core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders, and which NICE published in 2004. The guideline covers physical and psychological treatments, treatment with medicines, and information specifically for patients, carers and the general public. The guideline is due for review in January 2008.

Count of finished in year admission episodes where the primary diagnosis related to an eating disorder[1]; 1996-97 to 2005-06, NHS Hospitals, England

		Age									
		Under 10	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*
2005-06	Female	23	13	20	32	58	82	130	71	76	57
	Male	35	16	6	4	9	6	14	6	10	5
2004-05	Female	20	21	7	34	50	105	73	65	54	48
	Male	11	4	1	12	13	22	13	6	4	6
2003-04	Female	21	8	27	20	64	61	69	64	71	66
	Male	93	1	6	5	10	6	5	2	9	1
2002-03	Female	15	19	16	18	55	81	85	67	96	50
	Male	50	75	3	9	9	5	9	8	2	5
2001-02	Female	26	11	17	20	41	63	87	60	75	53
	Male	18	1	3	10	5	8	3	3	4	1
2000-01	Female	16	12	6	25	40	91	87	68	65	34
	Male	11	5	3	4	4	2	9	1	2	0
1999-2000	Female	20	15	10	28	49	73	98	77	46	77
	Male	10	0	3	1	3	7	6	2	0	1
1998-99	Female	15	3	12	40	70	52	73	61	49	57
	Male	20	1	3	1	9	1	7	2	4	1
1997-98	Female	33	6	29	21	40	56	68	60	53	44
	Male	31	7	4	3	8	9	8	1	4	3
1996-97	Female	36	12	14	9	35	62	84	61	48	46
	Male	43	7	2	3	3	10	4	2	2	3

Notes:
1. A finished consultant episode is a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures represent the number of treatment episodes provided, but do not represent the individual number of patients seen, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. The eating disorders covered are: anorexia nervosa, atypical anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, atypical bulimia nervosa, overeating associated with other psychological disturbances, vomiting associated with other psychological disturbances, other eating disorders, eating disorders unspecified, feeding disorder of infancy and childhood and pica of infancy and childhood.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre

Health Services: Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms exist to monitor the accuracy of statistics provided in reporting on the provision of health care in prison establishments; and if she will make a statement; [137713]

(2) what mechanisms exist to allow staff to report the submission of statistical inaccuracies on the provision of health care in prison establishments; and if she will make a statement. [137714]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department uses a system of star ratings to monitor the state of prison health care services across England and Wales. This is based on a framework of measures, including prison self-assessments, external inspection reports, and prisons' performance against key areas such as mental health and dental waiting times.

Data are collected for each prison establishment via Prison Service Area Offices. It is for primary care trusts, in conjunction with other stakeholders, to ensure the quality of returns concerning prison health care to the Department. Any inaccuracies will be resolved locally.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of the Secure Healthcare bid for the delivery of health care provision in prison establishments. [137715]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secure Healthcare application for the Department's social enterprise pathfinder status was one of 381, of which 26 were successful. Elements of each application contain "commercial—in confidence" information about potential social enterprises. It would therefore be inappropriate to place a copy of any of the applications in the Library.

The tender bid for the delivery of health care provision in HM Prison Wandsworth is a local matter for HM Prison Wandsworth and Wandsworth primary care trust.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision the prison health service makes for prisoners with mental health problems. [138467]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Mental health services for prisoners have been a key part of the Government's recent reforms of health services for prisoners. The

Department is now investing £20 million a year in national health service mental health in-reach services for prisoners. These are community mental health teams working within prisons and are now available in 102 prisons, with some 360 extra staff employed. Every prison in England and Wales has access to these services.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the answers given to him by my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Sutcliffe) on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1146-7W.

Hearing Impaired: Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the Government's policy is on the referral by general practitioners of audiology patients directly to ear, nose and throat consultants; what the difference in cost is per patient to the NHS of such referrals; and if she will make a statement; [137199]

(2) whether audiogram tests conducted by registered hearing aid dispensers are acceptable diagnostic results for NHS treatment, including the fitting of hearing aids; and if she will make a statement. [137200]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Patients seen by the general practitioner (GP) are referred directly to ear, nose and throat consultants if they are a more complicated case. Otherwise, a GP would normally refer an audiology patient to the adult hearing services within an audiology department for routine hearing loss. It is the responsibility of individual practitioners to make the most appropriate referral based on their clinical judgment.

We do not hold information about the difference in cost per patient to the national health service of such referrals.

Decisions about audiogram tests are a local matter which will be agreed between the hearing aid dispenser and the audiology service that receives patients who have been tested by the dispenser.

Hospital Wards: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of beds in the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust area were in mixed wards in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest available date. [138599]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 May 2007]*: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Security

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to increase hospital security. [137885]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In April 2003 the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for all security related issues in the NHS in England with a particular priority given to violence against NHS staff. A comprehensive strategy has been implemented detailing both preventative and reactive action to be taken to tackle security related problems both nationally and locally.

An integral element of the strategy is the creation of a role for an accredited local security management specialist for every trust to develop the security work previously undertaken in the NHS to raise the standards of that work to a consistently high level.

In June 2006, the Department published a consultation paper, "Tackling Nuisance and Disturbance Behaviour on NHS Healthcare Premises: a paper for consultation". As a result of the positive response to the proposals they are being explored with the Home Office, with a view to their introduction into a Criminal Justice Bill.

Hyperactivity

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in each of the last five years; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the diagnostic mechanisms in place. [136839]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Regarding the number of children diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in each of the last five years, I refer my hon. Friend to the response I gave on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1844W.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines stipulate that the diagnosis of ADHD and the initiation of treatment, should be undertaken by a child and adolescent psychiatrist or a paediatrician with relevant expertise but that continued prescribing and monitoring may be performed by general practitioners. Drug therapy should be part of a comprehensive treatment programme including advice and support to parents and teachers.

Macular Degeneration

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were (i) diagnosed with and (ii) treated for age-related macular degeneration in each year since 1997. [138217]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of people diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration is not collected centrally.

The majority of patients receiving treatment for macular degeneration are likely to be treated as out-patients. We do not hold data showing the number of out-patient attendances for this condition.

The following table shows the number of in-patient admissions for those whose primary diagnosis was degeneration of the macular and posterior pole. We do not hold data for Jarrow which is covered by South Tyneside Primary Care Trust.

Finished consultant episodes

	South Tyneside PCT	*North East strategic health authorities*	*England*
2005-06	100	2,214	31,386
2004-05	64	2,135	26,793
2003-04	51	1,735	24,501
2002-03	41	2,098	22,354

	Finished consultant episodes		
	South Tyneside PCT	North East strategic health authorities	England
2001-02	32	1,830	18,864
2000-01	22	1,470	18,092
1999-2000	41	1,327	15,828
1998-99	11	602	13,843
1997-98	6	309	11,350
1996-97	7	403	10,101

Maternity Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records her Department collects on the *(a)* performance and *(b)* capacity of the NHS to provide a safe and satisfactory (i) antenatal and (ii) post-natal service. [136507]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are committed to the principles of good quality woman-centred maternity care. We have put in place a number of measures for improving maternity services, including during the antenatal and post-natal period. The National Health Service Operating Framework 2007-08 requires all primary care trusts to undertake an assessment of current services, identify gaps and barriers to service development in preparation for delivering "Maternity Matters", the Government's vision for maternity services.

While the information is not collected centrally, the Healthcare Commission assesses the performance of the NHS against the standards set out in "Standards for Better Health" published 2004. These assessments are published in the Annual Health Checks which are available on the Commission's website at www.healthcarecommission.org.uk. In carrying out its assessments, the Commission looks specifically at how patient safety is enhanced by the use of processes and practices which prevent or reduce the risk of harm to patients.

Mental Health Bill

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her statement of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 58, on the Mental Health Bill, what the evidential basis was for stating that several thousand people have been denied treatment on the grounds that they are not susceptible to treatment. [135818]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the Mental Health Act, the decision to offer treatment of a patient presenting with a personality disorder(s) (PD) it is a matter of individual clinical judgement. Until very recently appropriate and evidence based interventions for PD have been very limited and their availability nationally inequitable. The prevalence of PD in the general adult population is between 10 to 13 per cent. and upward of 63 per cent. in the offender population. It is therefore a reasonable assumption that over the years since 1984, when the legislation came into force, that thousands of individual mainstream and forensic patients will not have gained access to appropriate treatments for their PD.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many adults were formally detained under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each year since 1997-98; and how many adult inpatient beds for *(a)* mental illness specialties and *(b)* learning disabilities specialties there were in each year since 1997; [131872]

(2) how many people under the age of 18 were formally detained under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each year since 1997-98. [131873]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information about the number of formal detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983 since 1997-98 and on the number of inpatient beds for mental illness and learning disabilities is shown in the following tables. These figures relate to all age groups of adults and children and separate data covering this period has not been collected centrally about the number of people under the age of 18 who were formally detained.

Table 1: Number of detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation (England): children and adults of all ages

	Number
1997-98	43,871
1998-99	47,867
1999-2000	47,526
2000-01	47,513
2001-02	47,806
2002-03	46,489
2003-04	45,691
2004-05	46,673
2005-06	47,394

Source:
Information Centre published data form KP90

Table 2: Number of national health service beds for mental illness specialties (England)

	Number
1997-98	36,601
1998-99	35,692
1999-2000	34,173
2000-01	34,214
2001-02	32,783
2002-03	32,753
2003-04	32,252
2004-05	31,286
2005-06	29,802

Source:
Information Centre published data form KH03

Table 3: Number of NHS beds for learning disability specialties (England)

	Number
1997-98	8,197
1998-99	7,491
1999-2000	6,834
2000-01	6,316
2001-02	5,694
2002-03	5,038
2003-04	5,212
2004-05	4,415
2005-06	3,927

Source:
Information Centre published data form KH03

Mental Health Services: Hospital Wards

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* mixed sex wards and *(b)* same sex wards are available in each mental health trust; how many beds there are in each such ward; and if she will make a statement. [137875]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Standards of privacy and dignity are measured by the Healthcare Commission against two core standards, which require that:

(C13a)—staff treat patients, their relatives and carers with dignity and respect; and

(C20b)—health care services are provided in environments which promote effective care and optimize health outcomes by being... supportive of patient privacy and confidentiality.

Currently, one mental health trust states that they do not meet standard C13a and four mental health trusts report that they do not meet standard C20b.

Mental Health Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean waiting times for patients waiting to see mental health specialists as (i) an out-patient first attendance and (ii) an in-patient admission were in each year since 1997. [137389]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is shown in the following table. It should be noted that waiting times collected by the Department relate to consultant-led services only.

Commissioner based waiting time information for mental health specialties, 1997 to 2007

		Out-patient appointment		In-patient admission	
Month end		Mean (weeks)	Median (weeks)	Mean (weeks)	Median (weeks)
June	1997	7.2	4.1	12.5	9.8
March	1998	6.5	3.8	12.6	9.7
March	1999	6.5	3.7	12.1	8.8
March	2000	6.9	3.8	12.6	8.5
March	2001	6.8	3.8	10.5	8.7
March	2002	7.3	4.0	9.9	8.1
March	2003	6.2	4.3	9.2	7.5
March	2004[1]	5.5	3.9	9.3	8.1
March	2005[1]	5.2	3.7	6.6	5.3
March	2006[1]	5.2	3.8	6.1	4.2
December	2006[1]	4.0	3.3	4.2	3.4
March	2007[1]	n/a	n/a	3.9	3.1

[1] Total in-patient waiting lists below 100 people for mental health specialties. It should be noted that for these low numbers the mean and median waiting times are prone to fluctuations.

Notes:

1. The figures are based on combined data from the following mental health specialties: Mental Illness, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Old Age Psychiatry.
2. In-patient waiting time based on mean/median wait of those still waiting at end of period. Out-patient waiting times based on time waited for those seen during the quarter.

Source:

Department of Health, QF01 and QMO8rs

Midwives: Vacancies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage three-month vacancy rate was for midwives in each year since 1997. [135880]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Three-month vacancy rates were collected for the first time in March 1999. The table shows the national vacancy rate for midwives each year since 1999.

National vacancy rates for midwives 1999 to 2006 in England

	Percentage Rate
1999	2.1
2000	2.8
2001	2.6
2002	2.8
2003	3.1
2004	3.3
2005	1.8
2006	1.0

Source: National health service workforce vacancy survey.

NHS: Career Structure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to the NHS Careers service in each year since 1999-2000; and how many people the service employed in each year. [135890]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on funding allocated to the NHS Careers service is available for each year starting from 2002. NHS Careers services range from a careers advice line to a careers website to support recruitment to the national health service. The breakdown of funding given in the following table is for the different aspects of NHS Careers service and includes costs for staffing. However, to identify costs of staffing separately would be available only at disproportionate costs.

NHS Employers assumed responsibility for NHS Careers service in July 2005.

NHS Careers service since 2002

COI job number	COI Job name	Cost (£)
2002		
253700	NHS Careers Doctors and Dentists	68,600.00
252110	NHS Careers Advice Line	719,151.00
	NHS Careers Bulk Fulfilment	104,300.60
	NHS Careers Website	37,200.00
254415	NHS Careers Job Shop	5,230.00
256442	NHS Careers Merchandising	85,100.00
256440	NHS Careers Spring Campaign 2003	310,825.20
2003		
257127	NHS Careers Bulk Fulfilment	125,260.02

NHS Careers service since 2002

COI job number	*COI Job name*	*Cost (£)*
257136	NHS Careers Advice Line	819,818.44
257140	NHS Careers Website	33,870.58
261417	NHS Careers Spring Campaign 2004	236,004.44
2004		
262237	NHS Careers Bulk Fulfilment	112,269.00
262238	NHS Careers Helpline	799,320.00
262240	NHS Careers Website	59,402.42
266388	NHS Careers Spring Campaign 2005	300,000.00
2005		
268311	NHS Careers Bulk Fulfilment	43,481.91
268637	NHS Careers Website	5,946.25
268638	NHS Careers Helpline Apr-June	272,768.79
269410	NHS Careers Helpline July to March	715,947.06
270162	NHS Careers website July 2005-March 2006	16,225.00
270575	Bulk fulfilment 2005-06	63,674.81
July 2005-06	NHS Employers	422,111.00
2006		
275126	NHS Careers Helpline April to September 2006	359,896.49
275151	NHS Careers Bulk Fulfilment	85,969.89
277447	NHS Careers Oct 2006 to March 2007	291,753.29
278060	New Literature mailing	10,975.08
2006-07	NHS Employers	1,035,983.00
Total		7,141,084.27

NHS: Finance

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how she plans to ensure that local councils which receive a targeted grant provided for making contractual arrangements with a host organisation to support a LINK spend all the grant for that purpose. [136435]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department will allocate the targeted specific grant to local authorities with social services responsibility under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

While this grant will not be ring-fenced, the targeted grant enables us to target precise amounts to individual authorities. Local authorities will be under a statutory duty to establish local involvement networks (LINKs) and the grant amounts will be publicly available.

We will be encouraging health overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) of local authorities to scrutinise the amount of money each host organisation receives in relation to the grant allocated to the local authority. We are working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny to ensure OSCs are supported in this role. LINKs will also be under a duty to produce an annual report to the Secretary of State, which will need to include details of the amounts of money allocated to them for their activities.

NHS: Nappies

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the promotion of *(a)* reusable nappies and *(b)* disposable nappies in NHS hospitals; and if she will make a statement. [137676]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual national health service hospitals and trusts to determine the practicalities of promoting the use of reusable and/or disposable nappies in their maternity units. We believe that parents and carers should be given information on the benefits of using either of these options to enable them to make an informed choice. Two comprehensive information booklets, "The Pregnancy Book" and "Birth to Five", published by Central Office of Information on behalf of the Department, are given free to all first time mothers. Both booklets give detailed information on both types of nappies.

NHS: Vacancies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the three-month vacancy rate was for *(a)* consultant psychiatrists, *(b)* psychiatric nurses and *(c)* all medical and dental staff in the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available. [135881]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest published three-month vacancy rates as at 31 March 2006 for all medical and dental staff, consultants in psychiatry, all qualified nurses in community psychiatry and other nurses in psychiatry are shown in the table.

	2006 three-month vacancy rate (percentage)
All medical and dental staff	1.8
Consultants in psychiatry	4.0
All qualified nurses in community psychiatry	1.6
Other nurses in psychiatry	1.5

Notes:
1. Three-month vacancies are vacancies as at 31 March each year which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full time equivalents).
2. Three-month vacancy rates are three-month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three-month vacancies plus staff in post from the previous September medical and dental and non-medical work force censuses (full time equivalent).

Source:
March 2006 NHS Vacancy Survey

Primary Care Trusts: Public Appointments

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of the appointees to the boards of primary care trusts in each of the last five years declared political activity for *(a)* the Labour party, *(b)* the Conservative party, *(c)* the Liberal Democrats and (d) other parties. [138066]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The appointment of primary care trusts chairs and non-executive directors has been delegated to the Appointments Commission by the Secretary of State. I have, therefore, asked Anne Watts, Chair of the Commission, to respond to the hon. Gentleman directly with the detailed information requested.

Psychology: Manpower

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's target is for the number of clinical psychologists per head of population. [117923]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not have a target for the number of clinical psychologists per head of population. However, the number of clinical psychologists in headcount terms has increased from 4,038 in 1997 to 6,820 in 2006—an increase of 2,782 or 69 per cent.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to analyse their local needs and develop plans, in liaison with national health service trusts and primary care providers, to recruit the appropriate staff required to deliver high quality services.

Radiography: Manpower

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many radiographers were *(a)* directly employed and *(b)* employed by contractor in the NHS for breast cancer screening in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004 and (iii) 2005. [138576]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* The numbers of radiographers directly engaged in breast screening are not collected centrally.

The overall numbers of diagnostic radiographers directly employed by the national health service for the years 2003-05 were:

	Number
2003	11,687
2004	12,147
2005	12,700

The numbers of radiographers employed by contractors are not collected centrally.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 165-66W, on radiotherapy, what the mean length of time between *(a)* ready to start date and start date and *(b)* decision to treat date and start date was in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by patient priority classification (i) E, (ii) U, (iii) R and (iv) D. [137372]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The radiotherapy dataset project is not yet complete. Mandating the collection of the dataset is currently being sought through the Review of Central Returns Committee, and if approved, the radiotherapy dataset should become a full national health service operational standard in 2008. It will then be possible to derive radiotherapy waiting times analysis from the dataset.

An audit of waiting times in radiotherapy was recently carried out by the Royal College of Radiologists, and was published in Clinical Oncology. The paper is available at:

www.rcr.ac.uk/docs/general/pdf/YCLON855.pdf

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Sight Impaired

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were registered as partially sighted in each year since 1997; [138218]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were registered as blind in each year since 1997. [138219]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information for Jarrow constituency is not centrally available.

The number of people who are registered as blind or partially sighted in South Tyneside, the North East of England and England, for all ages, at 31 March for the years 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2006 are shown in the following two tables.

Table 1: Number of people registered as blind at 31 March between 1997 and 2006

	1997	*2000*	*2003*	*2006*
England	158,600	157,800	156,700	152,500
North East	7,700	7,300	6,700	7,000
South Tyneside	500	500	500	600

Note:
Registration is voluntary; therefore this does not give the total number of blind people.
Source:
SSDA902

Table 2: Number of people registered as partially sighted at 31 March between 1997 and 2006

	1997	*2000*	*2003*	*2006*
England	138,200	148,700	155,200	155,200
North East	6,900	7,500	7,600	8,400
South Tyneside	400	500	500	600

Note:
Registration is voluntary; therefore this does not give the total number of partially sighted people.
Source:
SSDA902

Statistics on all registered blind and partially sighted persons are collected triennially from all 150 councils in England.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Travel

Greg Clark: To ask the Prime Minister whether the cost of his journey to and from Sedgefield on 10 May was met from public funds. [139143]

The Prime Minister: The costs were met by the Labour Party.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list his foreign visits for the period since 10 May 2007; who accompanied him on each visit; and what the total cost was of each visit, including transport and accommodation. [139133]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list.

All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the Ministerial Code, and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers". Information for 2007-08 will be published in the normal way.

Krishna Maharaj

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make to (i) the Governor of Florida and (ii) the United States Administration on the situation of Mr. Krishna Maharaj. [139184]

Mr. McCartney: I have been asked to reply.

My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have not made any representations in this case. On behalf of the Government, I have written to the Governor of Florida in support of Mr. Maharaj's clemency plea. No further representations are planned at this stage but we will continue to monitor the case closely.

Prime Ministerial Duties and Responsibilities

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1120-1W, on Prime Ministerial duties and responsibilities, what the practice under successive Administrations is, referred to in the answer of 9 December 2003, *Official Report*, column 374W, to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis), on ministerial duties; and on what occasions appropriate arrangements have been put in place in line with this practice. [139179]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1120-21W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes are planned to the planning guidance in relation to mobile telephone masts; and if she will make a statement. [138105]

Meg Munn: The Government intend to review the permitted development rights contained in Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 which grant a general planning permission for some types of minor telecommunications development to take place without the need to submit a planning application to the local planning authority. The aim of the review is to ensure that permitted development rights remain fit for purpose, particularly in the light of technological advances in telecommunications. Following the completion of this review, we will consider what, if any, changes might be necessary to Government Planning Policy in relation to telecommunications.

Brownfield Development

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will give the figures referred to in the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1387-8W, on brownfield development, for the latest year available, broken down by region, county and local authority. [136372]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* Information on *(a)* the percentage of new dwellings on previously-developed land (also referred to as "brownfield" land) as a proportion of all new dwellings including conversions *(b)* the percentage of new dwellings on previously-residential land as a proportion of all dwellings on previously-developed land and *(c)* the percentage of new dwellings on previously-residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings for 2005 has been placed in the Library.

This information has been taken from the Department's Land Use Change Statistics (LUCS). Because of the way that LUCS data are collected, the statistics are variable from year to year and are usually given as an average over a multi-year period at a local authority level as this is considered more robust and representative. However, as requested, the latest figures available have been provided.

Buildings: Scotland

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with the Scottish Executive on the implementation of EU Directive 2002/91/EC, on energy performance of buildings in Scotland. [137574]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government have held several meetings and discussions with Scotland and Northern Ireland to discuss implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Scotland, as a devolved Administration, is not required to implement the directive in the same manner as England and Wales.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff funded by the public purse in her Department and its agencies are classified as people without posts. [137707]

Angela E. Smith: On 30 April there were 19 staff in the Department for Communities and Local Government without a post. There is a small team responsible for helping people to find new jobs when they are without a post. We do not hold information centrally about staff without posts in the Government Offices or in the Department's Agencies.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in her Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137836]

Angela E. Smith: All of Communities and Local Government sponsored PFI projects are procured and managed by local authorities. Currently therefore there are no private finance initiative (PFI) projects on the Communities and Local Government's (CLG) balance sheet. CLG does sponsor a number of local authority PFI projects and under current UK accounting standards all CLG sponsored projects are off balance sheet for local authorities. A list of local authority PFI projects sponsored by CLG are available on the HM Treasury signed deals list which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/EAF/0A/pfi_signed_projects_list_april_2007.xls

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by her Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years. [137837]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government currently makes no annual private finance initiative payments. All of CLG sponsored PFI projects are procured and managed by local authorities. While CLG makes no direct PFI payments to PFI contractors, it does however provide revenue support to local authorities for the capital element only of PFI costs through grant payments. A list of local authority PFI projects sponsored by CLG is available on the HM Treasury signed deals list which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/EAF/0A/pfi_signed_projects_list_april_2007.xls

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what value of annual private finance initiative payments by her Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137838]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government does not directly make Private Finance Initiative payments to PFI contractors. However CLG does provide revenue support to local authorities for the capital element only of PFI costs through grant payments. All such payments are identifiable. All payments made by local authorities under PFI to private contractors are also identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

A list of local authority PFI projects sponsored by CLG is available on the HM Treasury signed deals list which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/EAF/0A/pfi_signed_projects_list_april_2007.xls

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments was *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137839]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government currently makes no annual Private Finance Initiative payments. Whilst CLG makes no direct payments to PFI contractors, it does however, provide revenue support to local authorities for the capital element only of PFI costs through grant payments. A list of local authority PFI projects sponsored by CLG is available on the HM Treasury signed deals list which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/EAF/0A/pfi_signed_projects_list_april_2007.xls

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people took sick leave for stress in her Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135479]

Angela E. Smith: During the period from 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007 32 members of staff in the Department for Communities and Local Government (and the predecessor Department the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister) took sick leave for stress. This represents about 1 per cent. of the average number of staff during that period.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's latest estimate is of the average cost of a Home Information Pack, including VAT, following the publication of the proposals in her consultation paper, Home Information Pack Update: towards 1 June. [129194]

Yvette Cooper: The market price for a Home Information Pack (HIP) will vary depending on a number of factors including the size, value and type of the property. The only new element in the HIP is the energy performance certificate which is likely to cost around £100. All other elements are currently paid for

in the home buying and selling process. For the purposes of the revised RIA which will be published alongside revised regulations, we have estimated the cost of a HIP for be £370 plus VAT. However, we do expect competition in the market to drive down prices. Some providers have said they will offer HIPs on a no sale-no fee basis, and others have said they will offer HIPs for free.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the findings of the Government-commissioned research monitoring the Home Information Pack trials; and whether the research will show *(a)* how many sellers chose to include the Home Condition Report in the Home Information Pack, *(b)* how many lawyers desired the inclusion of a Home Condition Report and *(c)* the values of the sampled transactions. [130747]

Yvette Cooper: We will be publishing findings from the independent research into the area trials as the trials progress. The research will show how many sellers chose to include the home condition report in the home information pack. The decision whether or not to include a home condition report rests with the seller and is not a matter for conveyancers. We will not know the value of transactions involving HIPs until the transactions complete, which in many cases will not be until much later in the year. This information will be provided in the final report expected at the end of this year.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the marketing and advertising campaign to promote home information packs and energy performance certificates which commenced on 25 March. [133579]

Yvette Cooper: The total spend to date on the national marketing and advertising campaign to promote the home information pack that started on 25 March 2007 is £895,000. Of this, £825,000 has been spent on advertising and £70,000 on marketing.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Treasury on the cost of implementing home information packs. [135647]

Yvette Cooper: The two Departments have discussed Home Information Packs at key stages in the development of the policy. These discussions have included implementation costs.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the re-mandation of Home Condition Reports will be considered as part of the review of the transitory arrangements for home information packs scheduled for December 2007. [135947]

Yvette Cooper: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement made to the House by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 22 May.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many inspectors are trained to carry out the environmental survey for home information packs. [136345]

Yvette Cooper: There are more than 1,500 home inspectors and domestic energy assessors who are either accredited or have applied for accreditation.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place for monitoring the accuracy and completeness of home information packs. [136471]

Yvette Cooper: Those responsible for marketing will be under a duty to make sure that home information packs comply with the Home Information Pack Regulations 2007. Local authority trading standards officers, who have considerable expertise at their command, will be responsible for enforcing the duties including the investigation of complaints that packs do not comply with the regulations. Enforcement authorities will have a range of enforcement options, including the service of a fixed penalty charge of £200.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to establish an effective scheme to provide professional indemnity insurance for home information pack inspectors. [136474]

Yvette Cooper: The insurance standards, set out in the Standards for Certification Schemes, were drawn up after extensive research and consultation with stakeholders, including the surveying and insurance industries. The standards specify minimum terms for acceptable indemnity insurance which will ensure that consumers are protected while being commercially viable for insurers and home inspectors.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with HM Treasury on how much value added tax is expected to be collected via Home Information Packs in the first year of operation; and if she will make a statement. [137416]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* VAT is already payable on most elements of the Home Information Pack (HIP) in the current buying and selling process. The only new element of the pack is the Energy Performance Certificate which is required as a consequence of European legislation. The Energy Savings Trust has established that Energy Performance Certificates could save homeowners around £300 a year on their fuel bills.

Any additional costs imposed are expected to be broadly offset by savings, including savings made as a result of reductions both in the number of failed transactions and the amount wasted each time a transaction fails. As we expect that, overall, any additional costs will be broadly offset by cost savings we expect that the VAT impact of HIPs will be broadly neutral.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood

and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 792W, on home information packs, which organisation the concession agreement has been made with; what the total value is of the concession agreement contract; and if she will place a copy of the concession agreement in the Library. [137514]

Yvette Cooper: The concession agreement was awarded to Landmark Solutions, part of Landmark Information Group Ltd to operate the register of Home Condition Reports and Energy Performance Certificates for dwellings. Landmark operate this facility of behalf of Communities and Local Government by the way of a concession contract.

The value of the concession agreement is entirely dependant on the volume of home condition reports and energy performance certificates lodged in the register. A lodgement fee of £1.15 is paid by a certification scheme or accreditation scheme each time a home condition report or energy performance certificate is lodged in the register.

We intend to place a copy of the concession agreement in the Library once we have obtained agreement from Landmark and removed any commercially sensitive information.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has been invited by the National Audit Office to comment on its draft report on the use of consultants on the home improvement pack programme. [137551]

Yvette Cooper: Officials have had a number of discussions on the draft report with National Audit Office officials.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the potential effect of the introduction of home information packs on the number of house sales prior to 1 June 2007. [137572]

Yvette Cooper: Given that a number of estate agents are running promotional campaigns to get sellers to list properties early, it would be no surprise if the number of properties marketed for sale in advance of home information packs were affected. However, short term fluctuations in the volume of new listings are already a common feature of the housing market. Factors such as interest rates are likely to be a far more important determinant of the number of house sales.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether domestic energy inspectors will be required to have Criminal Record Bureau checks. [137576]

Yvette Cooper: The standards set for accreditation schemes prescribe a Criminal Record Bureau check as mandatory requirement to be undertaken on all potential Domestic Energy Assessors when they apply to join an Energy Assessor Accreditation Scheme.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy inspectors have been both trained and accredited. [137577]

Yvette Cooper: I refer to the hon. Gentleman to the statement made to the House by my right. hon. Friend, the Secretary of State on 22 May.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of whether the cost of home information packs will be higher than the national average figure in *(a)* London and *(b)* the South East. [137578]

Yvette Cooper: The price of a Home Information Pack will be set by the market and not by Government. The cost of compiling a Home Information Pack will vary depending on a number of factors including the size, value and type of the property.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the disclosure of information in home information packs on the security of personal identity; and if she will make a statement. [137921]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* We have consulted with the Identity Theft Unit at the Home Office, who are satisfied that Home Information Packs do not pose a significant risk in this area.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice she has received on the compatibility of the provision of architects' and surveyors' flat layout drawings in leases as photocopies in home information packs with copyright law. [138070]

Yvette Cooper: The Home Information Pack regulations provide that the pack must include a copy of the lease where a leasehold property is marketed for sale. The lease will usually include a description of the property and a plan of its layout. The regulations provide that the lease can be an official copy of the lease obtained from the Land Registry, the original lease or an edited version of the lease if it is only available in that form. Where a potential buyer asks for a copy of the lease, this can be provided without breaching copyright law. As would be the case currently, sellers who wish to provide copies of other information that is subject to copyright restrictions should seek permission to reproduce the material.

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Good Practice Guidance for local authorities on delivering property searches will be available by the time home information packs become mandatory on 1st June. [139263]

Yvette Cooper: An announced in the House on 22 May, Home Information Packs will be introduced from 1 August 2007 on a phased basis. The draft good practice guidance for local authorities and personal searchers 'Delivering Property Searches' was issued for consultation by the Department on 1 May 2007. The period to receive responses ends on 26 June 2007 and we intend to issue the final guidance shortly afterwards.

Home Information Packs: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* businesses in the London borough of Bexley on home information packs. [139547]

Yvette Cooper: I have received representations from individuals and businesses in the London borough of Bexley via all three of the Members of Parliament for the borough.

Homebuy Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cash value has been of the equity purchased by social tenants under Social Homebuy purchases. [129198]

Yvette Cooper: The average cash value of the equity purchased by social tenants under the Social Homebuy pilot scheme is £117,125. This figure reflects that many of the early sales have involved tenants buying their home outright where they did not have a Right to Buy or Right to Acquire.

Homelessness: Hostels

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 657W, on homelessness: hostels, how many single homeless people are living in hostel accommodation being upgraded under the Hostel Capital Improvement Programme. [136531]

Yvette Cooper: There are currently 175 homelessness projects in the Hostels Capital Improvement Programme. The HCIP not only covers hostels but also day centres and other projects that provide training and real work experience for people who are homeless or living in a hostel. There are currently around 7,500 bedspaces in hostels in the programme. The Department does not collect information on the numbers of single homeless people living in hostel accommodation.

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which bids for the recent Hostel Capital Improvement Programme funding were unsuccessful. [136536]

Yvette Cooper: The £90 million Hostels Capital Improvement Programme ends in March 2008 and has been fully allocated with the aim of making hostels places of change. Where HCIP projects have been unable to proceed for reasons of planning or where a suitable site was subsequently lost, we have re-allocated the funds which has not involved formal bidding. In these cases new projects have been brought into the programme where they fit with the programme's aims and are supported by the relevant local authority. Where a local authority identifies a possible project, they are advised to approach CLG even though the programme is fully allocated in order to take advantage of any slippage which may occur.

Housing: Energy

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 124W, on housing: energy, how long it takes to train *(a)* a domestic energy assessor and *(b)* a home inspector. [136947]

Yvette Cooper: The time taken for an individual to qualify as a home inspector or domestic energy assessor would depend on their previous experience and the amount of training they require in order to meet the required standards.

Currently advertised training schemes for home inspectors can vary between three and 12 months, depending on the starting competency level of the candidate. Domestic energy assessor courses range between four and 12 weeks, with the duration dependant on the initial level of knowledge and competence of the candidate, although at least one other provider is offering an intensive course lasting one week.

To meet the needs of candidates who are already employed and cannot study full-time, most courses comprise several days of assessed workshops, together with distance learning carried out in the candidates own time. If a candidate wished to undertake their distance learning on a full-time basis, they could complete their course in a shorter period.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 124W, on housing: energy, how many *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy assessors will qualify on 1 June. [136948]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made to the House by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 22 May.

Housing: Inspections

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* energy assessors and *(b)* home inspectors are qualified and available to produce energy performance certificates; and what estimate she has made of the number who will be qualified and available from 1 June 2007. [128603]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made to the House by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 22 May 2007.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how long it takes to qualify as a *(a)* home inspector and *(b)* domestic energy assessor on a Government-approved scheme. [129068]

Yvette Cooper: The time taken for an individual to qualify as a home inspector or domestic energy assessor would depend on their previous experience and the amount of training they require in order to meet the required standards.

Currently advertised training schemes for home inspectors can vary between three and 12 months, depending on the starting competency level of the candidate. Domestic energy assessor courses range between four and 12 weeks, with the duration dependant on the initial level of knowledge and competence of the candidate, although at least one other provider is offering an intensive course lasting one week.

To meet the needs of candidates who are already employed and cannot study full-time, most courses comprise several days of assessed workshops, together with distance learning carried out in the candidates own time. If a candidate wished to undertake their distance learning on a full-time basis, they could complete their course in a shorter period.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the website listing accredited home inspectors at www.hcrregister.com has cost *(a)* to establish and *(b)* to run; and what proportion of those costs has been met by her Department. [139043]

Yvette Cooper: There is no cost to the Government on the operation of www.hcrregister.com. The contract to provide this service was let by a concession agreement entirely funded by the successful service provider.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of qualified home inspectors she expects the website www.hcrregister.com to list. [139044]

Yvette Cooper: The register will hold names of all certified Home Inspectors from 1 August 2007. These data are provided by Home Inspector Certification schemes. Due to the Data Protection Act, full contact details of certified Home Inspectors are only available if the individual has consented for these details to be used in this register.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the website listing accredited home inspectors to go back online. [139045]

Yvette Cooper: The Energy Performance Certificate and Home Condition Report Register (www.hcrregister.com) was down for maintenance for 10 minutes at 2.30 pm on Friday 18 May 2007 while the explanatory text for users was updated.

The purpose of this site is to allow users to retrieve existing Energy Performance Certificates and Home Condition Reports, or to verify assessors or inspectors to ensure they are accredited or certificated.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether home inspectors registered at www.hcrregister.com will have to hold Criminal Records Bureau clearance. [139080]

Yvette Cooper: All home inspectors must have a standard Criminal Record Bureau check before they are allowed to carry out their duties.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to include an assessment of the individual performance of home inspectors on the www.hcrregister.com website. [139081]

Yvette Cooper: There are no plans to include an assessment of each individual Home Inspector on any central database.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how frequently she expects home inspector details to be updated on the website www.hcrregister.com; and how quickly details will be updated once the status of an inspector listed changes. [139082]

Yvette Cooper: From 1 August 2007, Home Inspector Certification Schemes are required to provide a daily update on the status of Home Inspectors, which is run by the Register Operator at the end of each day. The details on the website will reflect the status of Home Inspectors at the close of business the previous day.

Housing: Standards

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many assessments were carried out in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* each London local authority under the Housing Health and Safety ratings system (HHSRS) in 2006-07; how many assessments under the HHSRS last year in (i) each English region and (ii) each London local authority were on properties in (A) the private rented sector, (B) local authorities and arms-length management organisations and (C) the registered social landlord sector; [135284]

(2) how many properties in the private rented sector were assessed under the Housing Health and Safety ratings system as representing a *(a)* Category 1 hazard and *(b)* Category 1 hazard (crowding and space) in (i) each English region and (ii) each London local authority in 2006-07; [135285]

(3) how many council and arms-length management organisation properties were assessed as having *(a)* Housing Health and Safety ratings system Category 1 hazard and *(b)* Category 1 hazard (crowding and space) in each (i) English region and (ii) London local authority in 2006-07; [135286]

(4) how many registered and social landlord properties were assessed as representing a Housing Health and Safety ratings system *(a)* Category 1 hazard and *(b)* Category 1 hazard (crowding and space) in (i) each English region and (ii) each London local authority in 2006-07. [135287]

Yvette Cooper: The Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) only came in force on 3 April 2006 so the Department has not yet collected data on its use from local authorities. The Department will be collecting information on housing assessments through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) returned by local authorities which will provide data as at April 2007. It is usual for the Department to publish the HSSA and BPSA at the end of the year subject to the data quality.

The HSSA data will include figures for dwellings with category 1 hazards, the estimated cost of removing the category 1 hazards in private sector dwellings and the number of private sector dwellings made free of category 1 hazards or demolished as a direct result of action by the local authority during 2006-07.

The BPSA data will include figures for the number of local authority homes that do not meet the statutory minimum standard for housing and the costs to put the defects right.

The English House Condition Survey will provide a national estimate of category 1 hazards for its 2006 findings, which we expect to publish early 2008. This will provide estimates of the number of category 1 hazards in each type of housing stock at the national level.

The Department is also committed to undertaking a detailed review the operation of the HHSRS once the system has been in operation for a while.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether social housing properties assessed as representing a Category 1 hazard under the Housing Health and Safety ratings system will be deemed to meet the Decent Homes standard. [135288]

Yvette Cooper: Definition and Guidance published by the Department in June 2006 states that the first of the four criteria a decent home must meet is that it meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing. Dwellings which fail to meet this criterion are those containing one or more hazards assessed as serious ('category 1') under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS).

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local authorities have not yet received the additional money allocated for meeting the decent homes standard due to not reaching the designated quality standard; [138860]

(2) how many local authorities had not been awarded 2 star status for housing as at 31 March; [138861]

(3) which local authorities have received a 2 star inspection award for housing. [138862]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* The need to achieve a 2 star rating from the Housing Inspectorate in order to qualify for decent homes funding applies only to arms length management organisations (ALMOs) set up by local authorities that are seeking additional Government resources to bring their housing stock up to the decent homes standard.

57 ALMOs have been set up since 2002 under the first five ALMO bidding rounds. 56 of these have now been inspected. 46 have achieved at least the necessary 2 star rating to qualify for funding. Eight have been awarded 0 or 1 star ratings and are preparing for or awaiting the results of re-inspection. Two have recently had initial inspections and are awaiting the results. The following table lists the local authorities involved, and funding provided.

ALMO funding awarded up to the end of 2007-08

	£
Local authorities with ALMOs on rounds 1-5 that have achieved at least a 2 star rating from the Housing Inspectorate	
Ashfield	55,320,000
Derby	97,176,000
Hounslow	99,650,000
Kirklees	149,800,000
Rochdale	106,300,000
Stockton	63,000,000
Westminster	74,000,000
Wigan	137,300,000
Barnsley	141,600,000
Blyth Valley	48,358,000
Bolton	157,560,000
Brent	67,997,000
Carrick	23,060,000
Cheltenham	31,440,000
Colchester	35,710,000
Hillingdon	59,300,000
Kensington and Chelsea	43,439,000
Leeds	382,461,657
Oldham	86,400,000
Waltham Forest	17,000,000
Barnet	48,783,400
Gateshead	104,140,000
High Peak	9,306,000
Islington	84,523,200
Newcastle	190,820,000
Poole	23,792,120
Sheffield	279,364,060
Solihull	50,245,000
South Lakeland	14,715,000
Warrington	30,199,680
Bury	16,560,000
Haling	104,548,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	92,062,500
Manchester	47,406,000
Newark and Sherwood	26,810,000
Rotherham	102,500,000
Sandwell	126,000,000
Gloucester	[1]—
Newham	78,113,000
Stockport	40,360,000
Wear Valley	5,000,000
Local authorities with ALMOs that have been inspected, but have not yet achieved a 2 star rating	
Easington	—
Bassetlaw	—
Eastbourne	—
Nottingham	—
Wolverhampton	—
Slough	—
South Tyneside	—
Southend	—
Local authorities with ALMOs awaiting the results of their initial inspections	
Doncaster	—
Hackney	—
Local authorities with ALMOs yet to be inspected	
Lambeth	—

[1] To be confirmed

Local Government: Reform

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of her proposals for local government reform; and if she will make a statement. [138739]

Mr. Woolas: The proposals for local government unitary status are not the Secretary of State's but the proposing councils' themselves.

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department had with the Minister for the third sector with responsibility for the Office of Public Sector Information between 1 June 2006 and 13 July 2006 on a complaint made against Ordnance Survey by Intelligent Addressing Limited. [139052]

Angela E. Smith: There were no discussions between the Department and the Minister for the third sector on the complaint made between those dates.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of possession actions by social landlords which led to households losing their homes in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2004-05; and how many such cases involved (i) single people and (ii) families with children. [130999]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the number of evictions in respect of registered social landlord tenants in England in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

	Number of evictions (on all grounds)
2004-05	13,400
2005-06	12,841

Source:
Data from annual Housing Corporation Regulatory Statistical Returns.

The data cannot be further broken down to show the number of single people and families with children.

Communities and Local Government have asked local authority landlords in England to submit data on tenants subject to possession proceedings for 2005-06. While data have been returned, they are not considered to be of reliable quality in this first year of data collection. We are working to address these issues and will have a clearer view for 2006-07.

Social Rented Housing: Insurance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps she plans to take to promote the take-up of insure with rent schemes among uninsured households; and if she will make a statement; [137537]

(2) what discussions she has had with *(a)* the insurance industry, *(b)* local government and *(c)* housing associations on promoting insure with rent schemes among uninsured households; [137538]

(3) what guidance she has issued to local authorities and housing associations on promoting insure with rent schemes among uninsured households. [137539]

Yvette Cooper: The Government recognise the important role of insurance as a financial tool, enabling households to protect against potential losses arising from risks to assets such as the home or a car.

Registered social landlords and local authorities are required to provide high standards of customer care. Landlords should consider all aspects of this, including insurance.

The Housing Corporation has issued guidance on facilitating access to insurance in its publication 'Insurance for All'.

The Housing Corporation has met the Financial Inclusion Taskforce and the Department for Work and Pensions to discuss the role of housing associations in promoting financial inclusion.

The Corporation and social landlords have also met with representatives from the insurance industry, to discuss how best to ensure coherent advice and good practice in the social housing sector.

The Department has recently received in invitation to join a Ministerial Working Group on financial inclusion, which will determine detailed priorities for financial inclusion policy, including insurance, which is currently under consideration.

Thames Gateway: Finance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will use the announcement of the comprehensive spending review settlement to increase the funding to the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation. [139125]

Yvette Cooper: Decisions on the future funding for the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation will be taken once the outcome of the comprehensive spending review is known and in the light of the proposals in the corporate plan they are preparing for financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Travellers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities do not meet the minimum standards set in relation to the provision of Travellers' sites. [139034]

Meg Munn: The Government have established a new framework to increase the number of authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites in line with need. Local authorities are required to undertake an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their area, and we understand that these assessments are completed or underway in 90 per cent. of authorities. Regional assemblies then determine need at a regional level and allocate pitch numbers to individual local authorities in regional spatial strategies.

Local authorities will then need to identify land to deliver the pitch numbers identified in their development plan documents.

Written Questions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to question 130747, tabled by the hon. Member for Brent, East on 27 March 2007. [138473]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* I have now replied to the hon. Lady's question.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will answer question 136372, on brownfield development, tabled by the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells on 8 May 2007. [139145]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to the hon. Gentleman's question.